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PEOPLE
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The Global Newspaper
Edited and Published
in Paris
Printed simultaneously in Paris,
London, Zurich, Hong Kong,
Singapore, The Hague, Marseille,
New York, Rome, Tokyo, Frankfurt.

Herald INTERNATIONAL Tribune

Published With The New York Times and The Washington Post
PARIS, FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 1993

ANNOUNCEMENT
U.S. 2025 August 138 P. Cent. 1.880 Rate
Australia 11.20 P. Cent. 1.720 P. Cent. 26.000
Canada 11.20 P. Cent. 1.720 P. Cent. 26.000
France 11.20 P. Cent. 1.720 P. Cent. 26.000
Germany 11.20 P. Cent. 1.720 P. Cent. 26.000
Japan 11.20 P. Cent. 1.720 P. Cent. 26.000
Italy 11.20 P. Cent. 1.720 P. Cent. 26.000
Spain 11.20 P. Cent. 1.720 P. Cent. 26.000
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U.S. 11.20 P. Cent. 1.720 P. Cent. 26.000
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Bond Yields Tumble as Interest-Rate Bets Pour In

30-Year U.S. Treasury Falls to 6.72% Amid Employment Pessimism

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches
WASHINGTON — Two weak U.S. economic reports released Thursday pushed yields in the bond market down to their lowest levels ever as investors bet that the Federal Reserve would have to lower interest rates to keep the recovery on track.
The benchmark 30-year U.S. Treasury bond's yield tumbled to 6.72 percent from 6.78 percent after the Labor Department reported that unemployment claims surged in the latest week.
Claims jumped by 26,000 in the week ended Feb. 20, underlining the sluggish creation of jobs in the United States. Most analysts had expected a decline in the figure, which was all the more surprising because the working week was shortened by the President's Day holiday.
Adding to the gloom was a report by the Commerce Department, which said orders received by U.S. factories fell in January at the

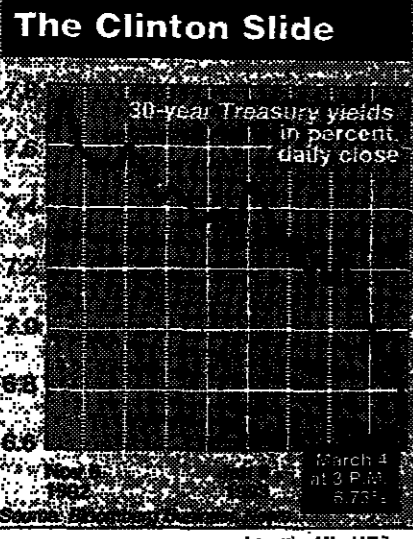
U.S. Makes an Arrest in Tower Bombing



HEALTH COSTS — Hillary Rodham Clinton at a New Orleans steel mill, where she discussed health care Thursday with uninsured workers. With her, from left, are Senators John B. Breaux and J. Bennett Johnston, and Representative William J. Jefferson. The White House rebuffed the medical lobby on a bigger say in reform. Page 3.

Muslim Held, By the FBI, Search On for Accomplices

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches
NEW YORK — FBI agents on Thursday arrested a man described as a Muslim fundamentalist in the bombing of the World Trade Center and said accomplices were being sought.
The suspect was arrested when he tried to recover a \$400 deposit on a rented van he claimed had been stolen. Officials believe the same van was used to transport the bomb to the garage under the World Trade Center. The vehicle was destroyed when the explosives were detonated.
The suspect was taken into custody after he presented the rental agency with identification papers covered with nitrates, a government source told The Associated Press. Nitrates are found in some explosives, and traces of nitrates were discovered at the blast site.
The arrest appeared to mark a major breakthrough in solving the most fearsome U.S. bombing in years. The enormous blast in a garage under the 110-story twin towers — the world's second-tallest buildings — killed five people and injured more than 1,000 others.
An FBI official identified the suspect as Salama Mohammed, 26, of Jersey City, New Jersey.
Jersey City is at the other end of the Holland Tunnel from lower Manhattan where the World Trade Center stands. Seen from the New Jersey side of the Hudson River, the mammoth trade center towers dominate the eastern skyline.
A government source said the suspect was a member of a Muslim fundamentalist group. FBI agents told the Jersey City police that the man was affiliated with a mosque attended by suspects in the assassinations of President Anwar Sadat of Egypt and the Israeli rightist extremist Meir Kahane, a Jersey City official said.
At a press conference in Washington, acting Attorney General Stuart Gerson said: "We're interested in more than the single individual who has been apprehended."
He would not provide further details, except to say that the suspect would be arraigned in New York later in the day.
The suspect, who was arrested without incident, is believed to belong to a terrorist organization and is not an American national, a government source said.
Another source said the FBI was weighing a theory that the bombing was staged in retaliation for the Gulf War, in which the United States ousted the Iraqi Army from Kuwait. The blast last Friday occurred on the second anniversary of the liberation of Kuwait.
FBI investigators were trying to determine if the suspect had acted under Iraqi sponsorship, the source said. The suspect had been known to the FBI in the past as a source of the bureau's counterterrorism efforts, the source said.
A Clinton administration official cautioned, however, that the evidence of Middle East terrorist involvement was "iffy."
The FBI director, William S. Sessions, at the news conference with Mr. Gerson, declined to comment when pressed for details, including whether officials believed the bombing had been the work of a terrorist group.
Mr. Gerson said, "I know things that I won't say."
The White House spokesman, George Stephanopoulos, said President Bill Clinton had been called by the Justice Department about the arrest.
Mr. Stephanopoulos declined to discuss what the suspect might be charged with, or whether the case related to international terrorism.
"All I can say is, an arrest has been made," he said. "I can't comment on it beyond to confirm it."
Investigators turned up fragments of a rental van reported stolen the day of the blast that could have carried the bomb, a source said. The charred pieces were scattered around the perimeter of the blast site, indicating that the van might have held the explosives, the source said.
The van was rented from the Ryder company on Feb. 23, four days before the blast, at an agency in Jersey City, said the source, an executive of the rental firm who declined to be identified.
CNN reported that the FBI set up something akin to a "sting" to arrest the suspect.
According to the network, investigators found part of a vehicle-identification number for a van found in the wreckage of the bombing. They traced the number to a van rented from a Ryder agency in Jersey City. All vehicles operated in the United States carry such a number, usually on the dashboard. Engine numbers also are required.
The suspect was said to have used his real name when he phoned the Ryder agency to report the van as stolen after the bombing occurred. He was told that he had to report the theft to the police, which he did.
Two FBI agents posing as Ryder employees were at the agency Thursday when the suspect arrived to rent the van. After some dicker, the suspect was given his cash deposit and was arrested by a swarm of agents after he walked off the rental agency property.
FBI agents told the Jersey City police that the suspect was affiliated with the Salam Mosque in Jersey City, according to Brian Dorf, a spokesman for the Jersey City mayor, Brett Shulder.
Also known to have worshipped at that mosque were Sayyid Nosair, who was acquitted in 1991 of assassinating Rabbi Kahane in New York City but convicted of related crimes, and Sheikh Omar Abdi Rahman, who was questioned in the Kahane killing and faces possible deportation to Egypt.
The police later found literature in Mr. Nosair's apartment on bomb-making procedures and a list of names that included a member of Congress and two federal judges. Mr. Nosair, born in Egypt, was New York City maintenance worker.
The sheikh has been living in self-imposed exile in the United States since he was acquitted



Airdrop Shows Limits of U.S. Policy in Bosnia

Accurate Delivery Proves Too Risky

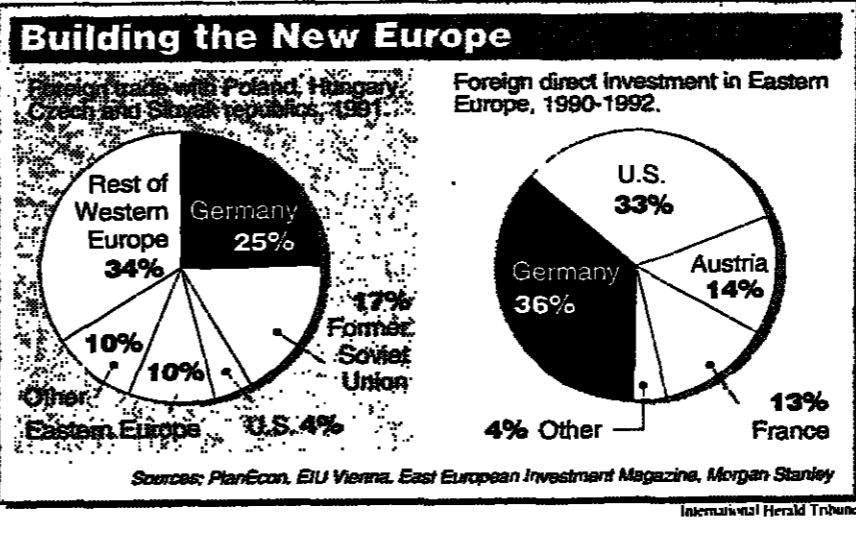
By Michael R. Gordon
New York Times Service
WASHINGTON — Although the Clinton administration has presented the airdrop of relief supplies into Bosnia-Herzegovina as a demonstration of resolve to protect the beleaguered Bosnian Muslims, the mission has instead come to symbolize the limitations of American policy.
In four days of airdrops, American C-130s have dropped almost 77 tons of food and medicine, aiming at spots near three Bosnian towns. A considerable amount appears to have been delivered where it was intended.
But, as is the case with the ground convoys carrying food and medicine into the region, much of the assistance has been diverted. And the first priority of the forces delivering the aid appears to be to protect themselves, and not run any serious risks in delivering the aid.
By attacking one of the Bosnian towns that the Americans are trying to reach, the Serbs have also disrupted the operation without penalty. Although the United States has said it is trying to stop the Serbs from starving the

Moderate Serbs See the Road to Peace

By Craig R. Whitney
New York Times Service
BELGRADE — Surprisingly, the recent military airdrops of humanitarian supplies into eastern Bosnia-Herzegovina by the United States, and the offer of similar actions by Russia, have been welcomed by many Serbs who see U.S.-Russian cooperation within the United Nations as the only hope of ending the war.
It is not clear how much influence any of these people have on the president of Serbia, Slobodan Milosevic. The United Nations has linked much of the violence to his nationalistic policies.
But those who suggest that the time has come for compromise include the principal foreign policy adviser to President Dobrica Cosic of the rump Yugoslav federation and Serb intellectuals who say they are appalled by the violence and at what international sanctions are doing to their country.
All of them agree that it will take a major UN peacekeeping force to enforce a cease-fire among Serbs, Croats and Muslims in Bosnia and disputed areas of Croatia where most of the recent fighting has taken place.
Real peace, they feel, will take many years to restore in a part of the world where people of different cultures and religions have been tearing each other apart for hundreds of years.
"It is a time for humility and reconsideration for all considered," said Svetozar Stojanovic, Mr. Cosic's adviser. "There must be pressure on all three sides to reach an agreement, but even after it is reached, UN troops will have to come in to separate the combatants. Perhaps they could start in the big places, like Sarajevo, and then let the cease-fire spread from there."
As he and other Serbian defense intellectuals here see it, Mr. Milosevic and the Serbian government he leads should not be the only targets of international sanctions.
"There's not a single evil mastermind behind

Germany Blazes an Industrial Trail East

By Tom Redburn
International Herald Tribune
MLADA BOLESNAV, Czech Republic — Not long ago, automobiles produced at the big Skoda factory complex in this dingy company town about a hour's drive northeast of Prague came in just two basic colors, with windows that did not roll all the way down and doors that closed with a tummy clang.
But today, less than two years after Volkswagen AG took control of the operation in what is still the largest single Western investment project in Eastern Europe, sharply improved Skodas already are rolling off the assembly line in greater numbers and variety than ever before. And with them, as the new cars start moving across Europe, is coming the first tangible evidence of an expanding industrial empire that is gradually beginning to spread from a rich but beleaguered Germany to the newly free, but much poorer, countries lying in its considerable shadow.
"It is post-Cold War, post-Maastricht and post-1992," said David Roche, chief European investment strategist at Morgan Stanley International in London. "Another new European order is being cast, with Germany at its core."
"Even as all eyes are on the problems of Western Europe and the chaos in the Balkans, in Central and Eastern Europe a potentially powerful economic sphere is in the making," Mr. Roche added. "The real battleground for political power, investment, growth and influence in the new Europe is the East."
Despite the recent sharp investment increase by companies from other countries — particularly the United States and Italy — in such East European trailblazers as Poland, Hungary and



High-Stake Swiss Vote: Whether to Gamble a Solid Image on Big-Time Casinos

By Brandon Mitchener
International Herald Tribune
Switzerland, a country that conjures images of chocolate, secretive banks and cuckoo clocks, is facing a change that critics say would add poker, prostitution and loud music at three in the morning.
Whether to allow serious casino gambling is the question facing voters on Sunday, and opponents say disaster would be the result. "We cannot shut our eyes," said Andre Bronniman, a Lausanne lawyer leading the fight against what he sees as an open invitation to disaster. "Switzerland is strong. Our banks are full of gold, our workers are industrious, our politicians are serious. Why do we need casinos?"
Increased revenue for the government is one reason. A preliminary decision on ending the

Swiss ban on big-time gambling is due Sunday, when voters cast ballots on a constitutional amendment supported by the tourist industry, the government and unions. Sources said the outcome was likely to be close.
The Swiss have never been big gamblers. They banned gambling in 1874 after Geneva gained an unwelcome reputation for wildness. Though gambling was decriminalized in 1956,

lawmakers determined to take the fun out of losing money limited the highest stake to 5 Swiss francs (\$3.35).
"Then that was probably the price of a bottle of wine, and now it's the price of two beers," scoffed Pierre Triponez, the director for a union of small business and leader of the campaign to legalize higher stakes. Proponents say the change could help attract tourists and bring the government 150 million francs a year in taxes. Opponents say it will lead to an increase in money laundering and gambling addiction.
If the amendment wins majorities of the popular and cantonal votes, parliament will set a new limit on bets, probably a couple of hundred francs, and change age rules and expand the kinds of games that can be played.

Zambia Declares State of Emergency

LUSAKA, Zambia (Reuters) — President Frederick Chiluba declared a state of emergency in Zambia on Thursday night. Speaking on state radio and television, he cited a potential threat to security in the country from certain sectors of society.
While he did not specify the threat, diplomats said Mr. Chiluba was obviously referring to an alleged coup plot to overthrow his government by fomenting civil strife. Reports of an alleged plot surfaced last week.
Mr. Chiluba also said without elaborating that Zambia was reviewing relations with Iran and Iraq.

A Prophetess Worries About Business

By Gustav Niebuhr
Washington Post Service
WASHINGTON — Harold Camping, who heads a chain of 38 Christian radio stations, calls the cult leader David Koresh "a terrible aberration."
Before Mr. Koresh's sect, the Branch Davidians, shot it out with federal agents in Waco, Texas, this week, Mr. Koresh got involved in apocalyptic prophecy, reportedly telling followers that his unmatched biblical knowledge would allow him to unleash earth-shaking catastrophes and guarantee cult members passage to heaven.
Mr. Camping worries that after Mr. Koresh, many people will "group prophecies all together." And that could be a problem, because Mr. Camping is trying to spread the word that the Bible foretells the end of the world next year.
Around Labor Day 1994, he said, the earth will erupt in earthquakes, fires and assorted trumms. Then, between Sept. 15 and Sept. 27, Jesus Christ will return in glory. The righteous

Building the New Europe

Foreign direct investment in Eastern Europe, 1990-1992.
U.S. 33%, Germany 36%, Austria 14%, France 13%, Other 4%.

General News
The Clinton campaign surpassed the Republicans in collecting "soft cash" donations. Page 3.
China, short on hard cash, sells Americans a lot of guns these days. Page 3.
A gray Paris suburb is getting a rare shower of electoral sparks. Page 2.

Kiosk
Dow Jones 5.13 3,398.51
Trib Index Down 0.28% 93.46
The Dollar New York, Thurs. close previous close
DM 1.6399 1.6454
Pound 1.456 1.4506
Yen 116.80 116.886
FF 5.567 5.5886

Cult leader releases another child. Page 3.
cal data that can be checked out," he said. "And the big question is: Are you ready?"
As the troubled 20th century draws to a close, the United States has become a land echoing with the rumble of apocalyptic prophecy.
Most comes from peaceful voices crying out in a largely secular wilderness. A few, like Mr. Camping, are both well-known and respected among many religious persons. But prophecy has its dark side, too, as vividly demonstrated by Mr. Koresh and his cult.

See ARREST, Page 4

WORLD BRIEFS

Army Is Caught in a Yeltsin-Parliament Tug-of-War

By Fred Hiatt

MOSCOW — The Russian Army found itself on Thursday caught in an escalating power struggle between President Boris N. Yeltsin and the conservative parliament, which sought to summon the president to explain his relations with military commanders.

That prompted some of Mr. Yeltsin's opponents to charge that he was inducing the military to take sides and possibly even preparing for army-backed emergency rule.

Mr. Yeltsin's dispute with parliament is partly a matter of policy, with conservative legislators opposing economic changes. It is also a struggle between two branches of government operating under a Soviet-era constitution rife with contradictions.

Various solutions have been proposed to end the struggle, including a national referendum, early elections for president and parliament or the convening of a constitutional assembly to write a new charter for Russia.

U.S. Envoy Warns of Aid Cut to Israel

TEL AVIV (Reuters) — The U.S. ambassador to Israel warned Thursday that Washington may have to cut its \$3 billion annual aid to the Jewish state.

China Warns U.S. on Trade Status

BEIJING (AP) — China warned the United States on Thursday not to make an "unwise" decision by attaching conditions to the extension of the special trade status for Beijing.

Germany Drops Hijacker Extradition

FRANKFURT (Reuters) — Germany will not ask the United States to extradite a young Ethiopian who hijacked a Lufthansa passenger jet and forced it to land in New York, Frankfurt prosecutors said Thursday.

UN Chief Sees Somali Transfer May 1

UNITED NATIONS, New York (AP) — Secretary-General Butros Ghali has proposed May 1 as the date to transfer command from the U.S.-led force in Somalia to a UN combat-ready force to deliver aid and disarm bandits.

Major Moves to Reward Achievers

LONDON (Reuters) — Prime Minister John Major announced changes to Britain's centuries-old honors system on Thursday, saying it would no longer reflect class distinctions and reward achievement rather than long service.

For the Record

A German lawyer found guilty of interfering in the environmentalist Greens and other leftists in West Germany in the 1980s on behalf of East Germany secret police was given a suspended 21-month sentence Thursday.

Correction

Because of an editing error, Oscar Wilde, the Irish writer, was incorrectly identified in the European Topics column in Thursday's editions.

TRAVEL UPDATE

Chinese aviation officials pledged to enforce safety rules that have been ignored in the industry's rush to expand, the China Daily said Thursday.

U.S. Disputes Critic Of Airdrop Policies Bosnia Serb Says Relief Effort Could Lead to a Wider War

WASHINGTON — The United States vowed Thursday to continue humanitarian airdrops into Bosnia and denied that its policies toward the former Yugoslavia could spark terrorism or wider war.

Christopher, asked about Mr. Karadzic's comments and a grenade explosion at the U.S. Embassy in Belgrade, said: "We will not be deterred from doing what's necessary by terrorist attacks of any kind."

But Mr. Karadzic said at a new conference later Thursday that he missed the point. "Please neglect this sentence in the letter because it missed the point."

French Reporter to Sue Over Phone Tap

By Roger Cohen

PARIS — The newspaper Liberation printed documents Thursday appearing to demonstrate that the French presidential palace tapped the telephone of a leading investigative journalist for Le Monde during a two-month period in late 1985 and early 1986.

Edvy Plenet, the journalist, said in an interview that there was no question that the 16 summaries of his conversations between Dec. 30, 1985, and Feb. 26, 1986, were genuine.

At the time, Mr. Plenet was a thorn in the side of President Francois Mitterrand's Elysee Palace. He had published several articles in 1985 uncovering the fact that French secret service agents blew up a boat in Auckland harbor belonging to the environmental group Greenpeace.

from budget cuts so steep that some recruits have starved to death, the military seems for the most part uninterested in playing politics.

The affair, merely the latest in a series that has come to characterize the Mitterrand era, seemed certain to embarrass the president in the run-up to parliamentary elections later this month in which the Socialist Party is widely expected to suffer a stinging defeat.

Telephone taps were rampant under de Gaulle and his successor, Georges Pompidou. But the Socialists had vowed to curtail the practice, and Mr. Mitterrand has often boasted that the press in France has never been more free than under his 12-year rule.

Symbolically, the fate of Sarcelles graphically exhibits urban troubles that have become a national nightmare. The luster of Paris or Lyon is maintained partly by shunning hard-to-assimilate social categories to poor suburbs.

Such foreign flavor fuels many people's fears that every cluster of young men is an ethnic gang. Syringes in the stairwells of malodorous apartment buildings, a school teacher's confession that he is physically afraid to give bad grades to some students: There is abundant evidence of economic and social collapse.

At a senior citizens' club in the Sarcelles synagoga basement, a score of women complained about a rising rate of robbery, mainly by drug users, and declining police strength.

In Gray Paris Suburb, Electoral Sparks

By Joseph Fitchett

SARCELLES, France — With a new conservative parliament considered a foregone conclusion in French elections this month, a rare passionate spark has flared in a squalid Paris suburb where one of the Socialist Party's stars may be unseated by a candidate making his first run for public office.

Two weeks ahead of the vote, the duel between the two men has become a tight race with national consequence. Amid a monotonous national campaign, the personal edge of the race in Sarcelles affords a glimpse of a fuzzy, emotional debate about the real condition of France that colors the thinking of all political parties.

The challenger is a newcomer, but hardly a political neophyte: Pierre Lellouche, 42, has spent five years as the top foreign-policy adviser to Jacques Chirac, leader of the largest conservative party, Rally for the Republic.



EXIT MINISTER — Health Minister Bernard Kouchner leaving the podium after being pelted with eggs and potatoes by grain growers Thursday in the town of Luce, near Chartres.

France's major cities: decaying buildings and a deteriorating school system, rising racial tensions, unemployment, drug dealing and violence.

In contrast, the leading candidates — neither of whom lives in Sarcelles — are dashing examples of the Parisian intellectual elite.

The Harvard-educated Mr. Lellouche, as a writer and journalist, including a column in Newsweek magazine, was a prominent French hawk during the final decade of the Cold War.

Mr. Strauss-Kahn, 43, had a meteoric academic career as an economist before becoming a Socialist Party official, then cabinet minister. He has acquired his own international reputation as a hard-charging advocate of French trade interests.

Both candidates have at their sides accomplished wives. Mrs. Strauss-Kahn — better known by her professional name, Anne Sinclair — is a television journalist.

Sarcelles and the urban areas edging it contain many of the social ills that afflict suburbs of

painter, has abandoned her Left Bank studio to manage her husband's electoral bid. Their 18-hour days have been directed at surmounting the incumbent's initial advantage in name recognition.

Trumpeted in the 1950s as a brave new satellite city, Sarcelles saw its experimental vocation overwhelmed when housing had to be hastily constructed to accommodate waves of French refugees from Algeria after the revolution there.

These relatively prosperous newcomers forged a politically liberal community that promptly subsided into a dormitory suburb of Paris. But this comfortable haven was transformed in the 1980s as the Sarcelles area was inundated by thousands of immigrants from Muslim North Africa, black Africa and the French West Indies.

Today, half of the local population comprises people from Third World countries. Nearly 60 percent of the housing is state-subsidized, low-cost dwellings.

Mr. Lellouche insists that the first priority should be enough extra police to deter crime, and attacks Mr. Strauss-Kahn for failing to bring jobs to the district.

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Germany Begins Tightening Laws on Asylum

BONN — Germany began re-writing its asylum laws Thursday to end an open-door policy and try to curb far-right extremism.

"Recognized asylum seekers are not the problem in Germany," said Dieter Wiefelspütz, addressing parliament for the Social Democrats.

Even the liberal opposition Social Democrats have agreed that Germany's constitutional guarantee of asylum to the politically oppressed must be restricted. The government contends that almost

all refugees are in Germany for economic reasons. Because of opposition support, parliament is expected to change the constitution and enact a package of asylum laws with the necessary two-thirds majority when it votes in late April.

Interior Minister Rudolf Seiters, claiming that 74,350 asylum seekers had entered Germany in the first two months of 1993 alone, said it was "high time" lawmakers did something about the problem "for the preservation of the internal security of our country."

"The number of asylum seekers continues to climb dramatically,"

A Suicide Ruling On Petra Kelly And Her Lover

BONN — Investigators said Thursday they had closed the file on the death last year of the founder of Germany's Green Party, Petra Kelly, saying she and her lover ended their lives in a suicide pact.

The decomposed bodies of Miss Kelly, 44, and her companion, Gert Bastian, 69, a former army general turned pacifist, were found in their Bonn home on Oct. 19. It became clear that Mr. Bastian had shot Miss Kelly, then himself, with a .38-caliber pistol, but whether the environmentalist was murdered or agreed to a suicide pact had remained a mystery.

But Bonn prosecutors said the circumstances pointed clearly to a death pact by the couple, apparently for personal reasons. Both were members of parliament.

Many witnesses who knew the former deputies said Petra Kelly as well as Gert Bastian had expressed thoughts of suicide in the past, a statement said.

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FIRST 100 DAYS / RESHAPING HEALTH CARE

POLITICAL NOTES

Federal Workers May Get More Political Rights

WASHINGTON — The House has voted to overhaul the Hatch Act to allow federal employees to engage in partisan politics outside the office on their own time.

Republican Is Candidate for 'Drug Czar' Post

WASHINGTON — A former New Jersey governor, Thomas H. Kean, is a contender for the "drug czar" position, one that is charged with directing the government's war on drugs.

Congress Backs Clinton on Jobless Benefits

WASHINGTON — Following the Senate's lead, the House approved a \$5.7 billion measure that would extend unemployment benefits for an estimated 2 million workers, handing President Clinton a victory in the first test of his economic plan.

Latino Ask Clinton for 'Fair Share' of Jobs

WASHINGTON — Frustrated Latino leaders are stepping up pressure on President Clinton to put more Hispanics in top administration posts.

Quote / Unquote

Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen, on whether the president's health care proposal should be attached to his economic program: "I'm not about to tell the leadership of the Senate or the House how to package this thing. We're going to keep our options open." (NYT)

Away From Politics

- Laying the groundwork for the prosecution's contention that four police officers intentionally beat Rodney G. King in violation of his civil rights, an expert on police procedure testified that the beating was a "clear violation" of Los Angeles Police Department policy.

White House to Medical Lobby: Don't Get Too Close

WASHINGTON — The White House on Thursday rejected the American Medical Association's request for a bigger voice in remodeling the nation's health-care system, saying it is keeping all special interest groups at arm's length.

The association's executive vice president, Dr. James S. Todd, in a letter this week to the administration's chief health-care adviser, Ira Magaziner, asked for more direct involvement in the administration's reform process.

Changes "will fall without the support of the profession," Dr. Todd wrote.

"Bring us into the process and we can help make it work," he added.

The White House press secretary, Dee Dee Myers, responded Thursday that "it would be a conflict of interest, we believe, to have representatives of various interest groups" as official members of the task force working groups.

She said that the medical association already had a "significant voice" on health reforms, and has met several times with administration officials.

Ms. Myers added that the White House was encouraged by the association's "willingness to look seriously at some of the president's proposals and to work with us on achieving real health care reform."

Seeking a Voice

Philly J. Hiltz of The New York Times reported from Washington:

Fearful of being left out of the debate on reshaping the health-care, the American Medical Association has told the White House that it would drop its long-held and formidable opposition to some proposals favored by President Bill Clinton.

In return, officials of the doctors' lobby said, they are asking for a seat at the table as the policy group led by Hillary Rodham Clinton works out what promise to be sweeping changes in medicine.

In a letter to Mr. Magaziner, Mrs. Clinton's right-hand man on health care, the group signaled its willingness to support the idea of "spending limits" on health care, to accept a National Health Board to review prices and practices in medicine and to accept that large "managed care" organizations like pre-

ferred-provider groups or health-maintenance organizations may be a large part of the health-care system in the future.

The association put caveats on some of these items, and repeated its opposition to other items under discussion by the White House, like the proposal for a "global budget" that would set a strict limit on the amount the nation spends on health care.

But it did offer to support a cap plan, probably less restrictive than the global-budget approach, under which doctors would accept national or regional health-care spending limits if they can help set them.

A medical association spokesman said it is a "reasonable reading of the proposal" to say that the overall spending limits would be at the level of inflation in the rest of the economy. Last year, that was 2.9 percent, while inflation for doctors' fees and other medical costs was 6.6 percent.

In the past, the lobby and its allied doctors have been credited with killing health-insurance proposals in the administration of Franklin D. Roosevelt, defeating President Harry S. Truman's national health

program and halting President Jimmy Carter's hospital cost-containment measures.

But in the new climate in Washington, according to various American Medical Association officials, the group worried that it was being left behind as Democrats on Capitol Hill, other medical organizations and such health-industry stalwarts as the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association have embraced "managed competition" and some limits on price increases.

Meanwhile, Representative Dan Rostenkowski, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, said that Congress was unlikely to pass a comprehensive health-care bill this year, despite strong urging by President Clinton and the Senate majority leader.

Mr. Rostenkowski, whose panel has written a large portion of the nation's tax and health laws, said Wednesday that Mr. Clinton's health legislation would probably be too big and too complex to combine with the president's economic package.

But he and other lawmakers expressed confidence that Congress would pass a health-care bill to the president's liking next year.

Snapping at the Hand That Fed Clinton Well

Loophole He Assailed Gave Candidate A Big 4-Month Lead in Contributions

By Michael Wines

WASHINGTON — As presidential candidate, Bill Clinton, who pledged to tame "big money interests" by putting an end to unlimited, unregulated campaign donations, was bringing a hand that generously fed him, a new analysis of campaign spending concludes.

The analysis, by the lobbying group Common Cause, says the Democratic National Committee amassed \$20.1 million in unregulated "soft" money donations in the last four months of 1992.

Virtually all was collected and spent on behalf of Mr. Clinton's reelection, Common Cause said. And virtually all came from big unions, corporations and wealthy individuals who could not have given such big donations directly to Mr. Clinton without violating federal campaign laws.

Current federal law bars companies and unions from giving any money to federal candidates and limits individual donations to \$1,000 an election and political action committee to \$5,000 an election.

Soft money donations sidestep those limits by going not to the candidates, but to the national parties, ostensibly for get-out-the-vote drives and other party efforts. In practice, presidential campaigns help raise the money and dictate how much of it is spent.

The Common Cause analysis, based on reports to the Federal Election Commission, showed that the Democrats had far outpaced the Republican National Committee in collecting soft cash. The Republicans gathered about \$12.8 million in the same four months for President George Bush's reelection campaign, federal reports show.

In the two-year election cycle from January 1991 to December 1992, however, the Republican National Committee out-collected the Democrats, taking in \$32.4 million in soft cash to the opposition's \$29.9 million.

During that time, 72 big donors each gave more than \$100,000 to the Democrats. They included big unions (the United Steelworkers of America topped the list, with \$398,876 in gifts), big companies (the Atlantic Richfield Co., the oil giant, gave \$171,573), and individuals like Alida Rockefeller Mesinger, a Minneapolis member of the Rockefeller clan and former wife of a department store heir, who gave \$300,000.

Computer software executives, an insurance executive and a commodities broker were among six other big donors who each gave \$200,000 to the Democrats.

Mr. Clinton repeatedly campaigned on a promise to curb the "political action committees, industry lobbies and cliques of \$100,000 donors," who he said donate soft money to "buy access to Congress and the White House."

The president of Common Cause, Fred Wertheimer, said the onus was on the president to change a political system that clearly would favor him, as an incumbent, should he decide to seek a second term in 1996.

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PIPE DOWN! — Supporters of Prime Minister Brian Mulroney of Canada trying to shout down a heckler, center, during a speech by Mr. Mulroney at a Progressive Conservative Party fund-raiser in Toronto. Several protesters heckled Mr. Mulroney over the North American Free Trade Agreement, the accord eliminating trade barriers between the United States, Mexico and Canada.

5,640 Enter IHT Competition on Clinton's First 100 Days

International Herald Tribune

PARIS — More than 5,600 readers responded to the International Herald Tribune competition asking them to predict President Bill Clinton's popularity rating after 100 days in office, as determined by the first Louis Harris poll at the end of April.

The winner will receive a round-trip Paris-New York flight aboard an Air France Con-

corde, or an equivalent travel credit. Runners-up will receive first class and business class trips or their equivalent.

Of the 5,640 readers who replied from 90 countries, almost half predicted that Mr. Clinton would have an approval rating of just over 60 percent.

In the event of a tie, readers were asked to guess also at the level of the International

Herald Tribune World Stock Index on April 30, the 100th day of the presidency, and on the level of the Dow Jones average that day along with the dollar-Deutsche mark and dollar-yen closing rates in New York.

The average of all answers for the tie-break questions was: Trib Index, 90.6; Dow Jones, 3304.4; U.S. dollar in Deutsche marks, 1.7; U.S. dollar in yen, 130.3.

'Messiah' in Texas Releases Another Child, but Not His Own

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

WACO, Texas — Federal agents, promising not to use force to capture a self-proclaimed messiah and more than 100 of his followers, won release Thursday of another child from the cult amid fears that some sect members may commit suicide.

A spokeswoman for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms said a boy was released from the sect's fortress on the rolling landscape near Waco, the 20th child to be freed since the siege began following a Sunday shoot-out.

Negotiations by telephone with those inside the fortified compound, led by David Koresh, have been focused on bringing out more children, an FBI spokesman, Jeffrey Jamar, said.

"It's not a bargaining. It's not a bartering at all," he said. "It's a matter of they agree together that the children should come out."

Mr. Koresh is deciding which children are released, the agent said. Eighteen children and 90 adults are believed to be still inside the cult compound.

Otherwise there was little movement on either side in the standoff, which may have taken as many as 20 lives. At least 450 federal agents are surrounding the Texas farm.

The Houston Chronicle reported that officials might cut off power to the farm complex in an effort to further isolate Mr. Koresh, the 33-year-old leader of the sect, and his Branch Davidian followers.

Mr. Koresh, who had promised the surrender peacefully Tuesday, later told the FBI he was awaiting further instructions from God before deciding what to do.

The shoot-out began when federal agents stormed the compound wounded in the gunfight and seemed to scream in pain during a radio interview Sunday night.

Asked about Mr. Koresh's health on Thursday, Mr. Jamar said, "He seems to have recovered miraculously."

The former rock musician took over the sect in 1987 after a violent battle with its former leader. The Branch Davidians split from the Seventh-day Adventists in 1933. They believe in the imminent end of the world.

The shoot-out began when federal agents stormed the compound wounded in the gunfight and seemed to scream in pain during a radio interview Sunday night.

He said it was worrisome that Mr. Koresh — who reportedly had as many as 15 wives — had so far released none of his own children, perhaps because he wants them to die with him.

Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen, whose department controls the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, said Wednesday that agents had been concerned from the start about "a Jonestown possibility" — a reference to the 1978 mass suicide of more than 900 followers of Jim Jones at the Peoples Temple in Guyana. (Reuters, AP)

Marc Breault, a former cult member, said in an interview published in the Waco Tribune-Herald that cult members had discussed ways to commit suicide, adding that individuals did not count.

"We're just food for the fire," he said.

Short on Hard Cash, China Is Selling Americans a Lot of Guns

By John Pomfret

WASHINGTON — The Chinese armed forces exported close to 2 million guns to the United States from 1989 through 1991 and set up or bought a number of companies here in an effort to earn hard currency and obtain American technology for military use, according to U.S. officials and documents.

Acting aggressively on a 1987 White House decision to allow Chinese arms imports, Beijing's army already has become the largest foreign supplier of small arms to the American market, according to

documents supplied by the Treasury's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

The move into the United States is indicative of the growing power and confidence of the Chinese military.

Between 1989 and 1991, according to statistics obtained from the Treasury's arms bureau through a Freedom of Information Act request, 1.92 million Chinese arms and thousands of tons of ammunition were brought into the United States. While complete 1992 statistics on imported Chinese weapons are not yet available, they appear to

surpass 1991, a record year, U.S. Customs Service sources added.

One of the Chinese-made guns, an AK-47 semiautomatic manufactured by a huge defense firm, China North Industries, or Norinco, was used by a gunman to kill two people and wound three others in front of CIA headquarters on Jan. 25.

"Chinese guns are flooding the market," said a high-ranking official of the Treasury's arms bureau. "They're the K-Mart of weapons manufacturers."

Other businesses of the People's Liberation Army, as the armed forces collectively are known, import pig iron, basketballs, bicycles, car jacks, barbells, silk jackets and negligees into the United States from factories in China. Additional companies are seeking to buy American businesses, especially those specializing in high technology.

In a move that has concerned some U.S. military officials, one firm linked to the military, China National Aero-Technology Import-Export Corp., established a small airplane parts manufacturing company near Seattle after its attempt to buy a similar but larger firm was stopped by the Bush administration in 1989.

The move by Chinese military firms into the United States, which started in the mid-1980s — has occurred with little or no public debate in this country. The White House began allowing China to sell weapons here in 1987.

At the time, American firms were selling China weapons and weapons-related technology and the Chinese demand for access to the U.S. market was seen as fair reciprocity.

After the 1989 crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators in China, the Bush administration stopped U.S. weapons sales to China, although it continued to allow Chinese military firms to operate and to sell their weapons in the United States.

Terrorists Turn Tables on Drug Lord

By James Brooke

New York Times Service

BOGOTA — Pablo Escobar Gaviria, a veteran practitioner of terrorism, is suddenly squirming as a target of terrorism.

In a modern gang war complete with faxed communiqués and clandestine news conferences, a powerful faction of the Medellín cocaine ring has turned on its godfather and vowed his destruction.

"May Pablo Escobar disappear from the face of the earth," a hooded member of Colombia Libre recently told Semana, a news weekly here. Free Colombia is the civilian wing of a paramilitary Medellín terrorist group known as Pepes, the Spanish acronym for People Presented by Pablo Escobar.

Free of scruples about using terror and armed with inside information acquired during years of service for Mr. Escobar, these groups appear to be turning the tables in the seven-month manhunt for the nation's most-wanted criminal.

"The Pepes can do what the security forces can't do — blow up someone's house, kidnap people and kill them," Defense Minister Rafael Pardo said. "They are waging a dirty war."

Having lost his monopoly on terrorism, the billionaire trafficker sounds more and more like a hunted man.

In faxed answers on Tuesday to questions submitted by The New York Times through his lawyers, Mr. Escobar whittled a long list of surrender conditions down to one — U.S. residency visas for his family.

Wednesday, the U.S. Embassy here rejected that option, issuing a statement that his "offer to exchange protection for his family for his surrender is unacceptable."

The Colombian prosecutor, Gustavo de Greiff, told a radio station Wednesday that his office would consider giving protection to Escobar family members if they made a request.

Left largely on his own, Mr. Escobar is discovering that former friends can be the worst enemies.

"Some of the Pepes were close to him," a law enforcement official here said. "Now they are very dangerous to him."

In one month, the Pepes have killed more than 20 Escobar loyalists and carried out 11 dynamite attacks, causing damage of about \$8 million to properties owned by the Escobar family.

Operating in the Medellín area, Pepes squads have burned ranches and chalets of family members, exploded car bombs outside their apartments, and burned the trafficker's prized collection of antique cars, including a 1933 Pontiac, supposedly owned by Al Capone.

"We want to make Pablo Escobar feel the effects in his own flesh of his brand of terrorism," the group said in its inaugural communiqué.

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Herald INTERNATIONAL Tribune

Job Done in Somalia

Three months after the successful and casualty-free landing of American troops in Somalia, the man who spearheaded the deployment, U.S. Special Envoy Robert Oakley, is returning to the United States. The country he leaves behind is still without a government, a legal system or any semblance of a permanent peace. Today's Somalia, however, is no longer the place of unspeakable suffering and mass starvation that shocked and shamed the world a few months ago. For that, Ambassador Oakley can rightly come home from his diplomatic endeavors with a sense of accomplishment. It may be helpful to recall that a pacified and economically rehabilitated Somalia was never the objective of this bold, risky and unprecedented mission. The reason for intervening with a show of American leadership and military power last December was to get food to the starving. The purpose of the security-for-relief mission has been achieved: The grip of the gangs on the grain has been broken, convoys are moving relief shipments, and aid agencies no longer have to rely on bribery to feed the hungry. The business of keeping roads open, resolving conflicts among rival warlords and reconstructing civil authority is now, as it

always has been, the responsibility of Somalis themselves under the care and guidance of the United Nations. As an understandably impatient United States prepares to remove the bulk of its forces, perhaps by May, the looming question is whether this operation, costly in casualties, lives and money, will make a lasting difference. The answer to that is in the hands of the Somalis — and other nations that have an obligation. The transition to a United Nations peacekeeping operation has already slipped behind schedule, because of continued outbreaks of violence but also because of UN dithering. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros Ghali should press member nations which enthusiastically supported humanitarian intervention when the preponderant forces were to be American, to demonstrate an equal willingness to send their own replacement troops to Somalia now. The brutal, power-hungry clans and armed teenage marauders were no match for the United States and the other deployed forces. The groundwork has been laid for a UN operation with teeth. A critical testing period has arrived in the Horn of Africa — and more than Somalia is on trial. — THE WASHINGTON POST.

Inter-American Affairs

After a false start, the Clinton administration has come up with a sound nominee to be assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs. Alexander Watson is a seasoned career diplomat who served as U.S. ambassador to Peru and most recently as deputy chief of mission at the United Nations. As important, putting him forward means that the Senate confirmation hearings will not be dominated by snarling exchanges about Fidel Castro and the future of post-Castro Cuba. To avoid that prospect, the Clinton team backed away from a Cuban-American it had initially considered for the same vital post. Mario Baesa, a Wall Street lawyer who specializes in privatizing state-owned enterprises, was denounced as soft on Mr. Castro by Cuban-American hard-liners in Miami. Mr. Baesa's critics never gave him the courtesy of a hearing, pointing up the deep emotions stirred among Cuban-Americans in Miami and elsewhere. Cuba is but one of a dozen countries that contend for Washington's attention. Huge Brazil is beset by a collapsing economy and corruption scandals that brought down its president. Democratic Venezuela has been

rattled by attempted coups. A peace accord in El Salvador might come unstuck if its government fails to purge the armed forces. Nicaragua's freely elected president, Violeta Chamorro, is challenged on every side. Peru under an erratic president is still besieged by Shining Path guerrillas, Colombia by drug lords, and so forth. In Havana, a failing tyranny stumbles toward history's dustbin. Fidel Castro could hardly have doubted weariness in his remarks to the foreign press last week: "This has been a very long race — too long. I feel I am a slave to the revolution." Since seizing power in 1959 he has tormented eight U.S. presidents. Now, with the collapse of communism, Cuba has lost its arms suppliers, its trading partners and its ideological bearings. The safest, wisest course for Washington is to let Cuba fester, and shun actions that could be construed as treating the island as booty to be devoured by émigrés hungry for old privileges. The cool, professional eye of an Alexander Watson offers the promise of keeping Cuba, and the rest of the hemisphere, in mature perspective. — THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Presidents and the Law

American presidents and Supreme Courts have had their odd dealings over the years, but this may be the first time the court has been called upon to uphold a campaign flip-flop. As a candidate, Bill Clinton condemned as immoral the Bush administration's policy of forcing boatloads of refugees back to Haiti, and he praised a court that found that approach illegal. But just before his inauguration, Mr. Clinton, adopting a huge influx of refugees, defied the Bush policy. This week he asked the Supreme Court to find that policy legal or, better still, to rule that courts cannot order the president to obey a treaty and immigration law. The high court can do president and nation a huge service by denying this latest overblown claim to executive power. Despite a refugee treaty and a 1980 law instituting it, George Bush and Bill Clinton both claim the right to return masses of refugees to Haiti without first ascertaining which among them deserve asylum. Mr. Clinton says there is a "big difference" in his program because it is designed to save the lives of refugees in rickety boats. But Mr. Bush gave the same justification. More candid, perhaps, is Mr. Clinton's remark that "maybe I was too harsh in my criticism" of Mr. Bush during the campaign. This week's argument repeats the Bush claim that the commander in chief, deploying vessels on the high seas to intercept Haitians, is impervious to court restraints. The Bush Justice Department said that a lower court — the same one praised by

candidate Clinton — "intruded intolerably" in military and foreign policy matters in a lawsuit on behalf of Haitian refugees. More politely, the Clinton Justice Department now asks the high court to allow U.S. vessels to continue "under the direction of the Coast Guard and the president and not the federal courts." But the refugees' lawsuit, which the government once denounced as frivolous, does not ask judges to man the Coast Guard cutters. Contrary to the view of fans of an omnipotent executive, it is not a national weakness that the independent judiciary interprets the treaties and laws, telling the president when he reads them wrong. Some said that the president was the winner last year when the Supreme Court, asked to enforce an extradition treaty with Mexico, allowed the kidnapping of a Mexican national in his own country for trial in the United States. Some victory. The decision told the world that America's vaunted judiciary would sit by while the executive branch scoured its international agreements for loopholes. The basic solution is to restore democracy to Haiti, relieving pressure to flee that country either out of fear or in search of a better life. Meanwhile, the United States is legally bound not to return a fleeing Haitian without deciding eligibility for asylum. The Supreme Court can declare that staple matter of justice, depriving the Clinton administration of a shabby legal victory and sparing the nation an international black eye. — THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Other Comment

India Is Not an Island Reports of Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao's political decline might have been premature. The destruction of the mosque at Ayodhya by militant Hindus together with the subsequent riots and sectarian strife had weakened Mr. Rao's authority and put market reform in jeopardy. But then came the budget announcement from Finance Minister Manmohan Singh, which made clear that not only would reforms continue, they would be accelerated. Most overdue was the announcement of a fully convertible rupee for trade. Past Indian governments, as Mr. Singh told Parliament, have used an artificially valued rupee to subsidize imports at the expense of exports. The Indian economy has paid a price for this form of protection in terms of fat and inefficient domestic enterprises and an unattractive climate for foreign investors. Perhaps the only Indian export that such barriers promoted was the one the country can least afford: the exodus

of a talented and educated people to parts of the world where their enterprise and creativity are allowed to flourish. There is still little chance of the Indian economy catching up with the freer-trade regimes of Hong Kong and Singapore. But no one should miss the larger point: that an increasingly global economy means no country can be an island. If even India, with a sixth of the world's population, can no longer close itself off from the virtues of competition, who can? — Far Eastern Economic Review (Hong Kong). Bosnia: A Little, and Late Reports that Muslims were killed while retrieving U.S. food and medical supplies shipped into Bosnia highlight the operation's dangerous hit-and-miss nature. But at least President Bill Clinton, and now the Russians, are doing something — unlike their European counterparts. The pity is that Washington did not get involved a year ago. — Gulf Daily News (Manama, Bahrain).

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Clinton Seems to Be Off to a Good Start

By Flora Lewis

WASHINGTON — Two deadlines are driving President Bill Clinton's foreign policy thinkers as they plunge into shaping guidelines for what one top official called America's "first post-Cold War administration." They are the early April summit in Copenhagen with President Boris Yeltsin of Russia, and the mid-July Tokyo summit of seven industrial nations, which Mr. Yeltsin doubtless will attend, although there is a problem of who should invite him. Despite the promise to focus on domestic issues, there is clearly a sense that national American and

American impetus to get them moving together. Some scarcely visible structural changes have been made to promote better teamwork inside Washington, partly in the way key appointments are made, which accounts for some of the delays, partly by special links between the new National Economic Council and the long-established National Security Council. People dealing with overlapping domestic and international issues

how GATT and the free trade agreement with Mexico and Canada will help U.S. recovery and provide American jobs.

That is a key to the Clinton approach, an energetic concentration on mobilizing the domestic support needed to carry decisions through to execution. It is why he keeps racing around the country as though he were still campaigning for election and shies away from too much specialization in foreign affairs, although advisers are aware that international policy will not work unless he is seen to be involved.

Key foreign policy issues are being addressed with small steps so far — encouragingly in the right direction toward more cooperation, but without the explanations that would assure foreign partners of where Mr. Clinton really intends to go. This is a gap that has provoked criticism about a lack of policy.

It does reflect prudence, a concern not to go too fast without full consideration of consequences. But it also reflects a deliberate policy of leaving articulation of foreign objectives until the basis is in place, rather than setting goals before figuring out how to move toward them.

Mr. Clinton seems to want to leave the job of speaking to the world for America to others for now, while he speaks as directly as possible to Americans and seeks to create a revival of energy and confidence. Many of the others have not yet been confirmed by the Senate and are not allowed to speak, but their approach is knowledgeable and sounds reassuring.

My impression at this early stage is that if the president's economic program can maintain public enthusiasm and begin to show effect, the rest of the world will get the kind of America it has long been saying it wants — a vigorous, eager partner but not a hegemon ordering others around.

That means that the rest of the world will have to be willing to share more responsibilities. One national leader will have to do a better job of explaining to their own public why cooperation, which means compromise, is necessary and beneficial and why some local interests will have to give way to larger international interests.

It won't be easy, but from up close, Washington looks to be getting off to a good start. If it works, everyone stands to gain. © Flora Lewis.



The rest of the world may get the kind of America it has long been saying it wants — a vigorous, eager partner but not a hegemon.

international affairs cannot be separated, particularly in Europe. The United States is not about to turn its back on the world, although neither will it accept lonely responsibilities. The decision to air-drop supplies to eastern Bosnia is an example of the approach, although admittedly it was a symbolic, tactical and initial step toward grappling with the much larger problem of Balkan politics.

Allied governments told the United States to help push through the Vance-Owen scheme for enclaves in Bosnia, on the ground that it was a step toward grappling with the much larger problem of Balkan politics.

NATO is handling the military planning, a way of assuring continued American participation and of enticing the Russians, who are eager for recognition as security partners. Even France has quietly dropped objections to extending NATO's role and indicated willingness to take part in this aspect of its operations.

There is a little more time to prepare the G-7 summit in Tokyo, but, like the first Clinton-Yeltsin meeting, it is seen as a critical moment to launch the momentum. In the last few years, those annual sessions have produced wishful rhetoric and scant results on urgent cooperation to restore economic growth, agree on new trade rules and organize help for Russia. All the governments are looking inward now, and the new administration recognizes that it will take firm

are being ordered to work on joint papers and report to both directors, a method intended to avert traditional battles for turf.

Mickey Kantor, the U.S. trade representative, has said some harsh things that make it sound more difficult than ever to conclude a GATT agreement. But colleagues say this is how he negotiates and that he really wants a deal, aware that the United States needs one as much as its partners. Meanwhile, lower-ranking officials have been ordered to draw up studies showing

Philippines: A Long Road, but Ramos Is Under Way

By Philip Bowring

MANILA — Things are looking up in the Philippines, although there is still a long way to go. Correct economic policies and considerable luck for a country so prone to natural disasters will not be enough to revive a nation whose institutions are as poorly maintained as its physical infrastructure. But after a slow start, President Fidel Ramos is beginning to look serious about tackling some fundamental problems. He may appear an unlikely figure to do so. He was associated with both the Marcos kleptocracy and the indecisive Aquino government. Despite a clean personal image, he had command of the notoriously corrupt Philippine Constabulary (now part of the national police). He is dull in a nation that loves rhetoric. He scraped into office with a mere 23 percent of the vote. He had to work with a Congress controlled by opposition parties.

His first eight months in office have been dominated by headlines about power cuts and a spate of kidnappings for ransom, mostly of ethnic Chinese businessmen. (These abductions, it is widely believed, could take place only with the connivance of senior police.) But now there are signs of remedial action and resolve. Most significant have been long-needed efforts to tackle corruption in law enforcement. A former chief of police has been charged with graft. His successor has resigned. Further purges are in prospect.

There are still many Filipinos who doubt that Mr. Ramos has the power to clean up the police. But, urged on by the public, which has become less resigned to crime, the president now has the initiative. He is also taking on the judiciary, which poses three problems for efficient government: corruptibility,

convoluted procedures that frustrate justice, and power plays by judges who have frustrated executive decisions by hearing sometimes dubious judicial challenges to them.

The judiciary has held up electricity price rises, adding to the power crisis and putting World Bank energy loans in jeopardy. Mr. Ramos recently forced the resignation of a Supreme Court judge who had been

in the past, wobbly alliances of left-leaning nationalists and protected local producers (many of them foreign-owned) kept a lid on competition. But economic nationalism has been waning in the Philippines. As in Latin America, such a policy is seen to have led to economic stagnation. Many of the younger Filipino business leaders are now more willing to face competition or seek alliances with dynamic overseas Chinese groups.

Mr. Ramos has signaled a less isolationist attitude with a series of visits to Asian countries in an effort to drum up investment and improve his country's battered image.

Through his own fault, the Philippines has missed out on the major waves of Japanese and Taiwanese investment in manufacturing in East Asia. But there is still money to be made if Mr. Ramos can improve the national image.

That may seem too much to expect in a fragmented society with a cumbersome political system and weak bureaucracy. But the president has gone out of his way to try to co-opt Congress to support his program. Although his own party started with few official members in either house of the legislature, Mr. Ramos has used his powers of patronage and the political skills of the speaker to get members of the House of Representatives on his side. The Senate, too, is aware that the public expects more effective government. Senators are concerned that if the system cannot deliver, it will eventually be overthrown. They have responded positively to Mr. Ramos's efforts to tighten executive-legislative links. The president may have less suc-

cess in negotiating an end to the Communist and Muslim insurgencies. Both have been much diminished by the democratic process and suffer from internal rifts. Greater dangers to democracy still lurk among disgruntled officers in the armed forces. Mr. Ramos recognizes that effective government can neutralize such threats.

The Philippines, which only produces a small portion of the oil it consumes, may now be in store for some good luck. Philippine oil finds in the South China Sea used to be subject to wild exaggeration. The latest ones, by a Shell-led group, seem to have been underplayed. It appears that by 1995 about half of the country's oil needs will be produced locally.

The economic impact of the loss of the U.S. military bases has not been absorbed. Many believe that the nation will be healthier without America as a too-convenient scapegoat.

Nonetheless, the Philippines faces immense problems. The decay of roads, the power grid and other infrastructure under the pressure of low savings will slow the nation for years. So, too, will population growth, now at an annual rate of 2.5 percent. Official targets call for 7 percent GNP growth, but more realistic medium-term estimates are 3 to 4 percent.

Foreign debt is now manageable, but there is a gigantic domestic overhead from the Marcos years, and this has been worsened by high interest rates to hold down demand. Another problem has been discouragement of productive investment in favor of money markets. Some relaxation of credit is likely this year, but the payments balance remains precarious.

One of several problems with the Philippine elite is its unwillingness to pay taxes. Government revenue is a low 14 percent of GNP, much of this from tariffs. After paying for debt interest, the armed forces, education and public health, there is little left for economic infrastructure.

Political power has long been used as a path to wealth through kickbacks and corruption. There is a lack of investment in job-creating industries, but Manila has a glut of condominiums and upmarket offices. With such examples at the top, it is hardly surprising that standards of public administration are abysmal.

Can President Ramos transcend the system that created him? At least now he seems to be trying. International Herald Tribune.

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Grumpy France Heads for a Change

By William Pfaff

PARIS — By next month, France will have a new government, but not a new president. François Mitterrand has two years remaining in his presidential term, and says that he has no intention of resigning merely because the conservative and centrist opposition is expected to win the parliamentary elections about to take place. He will stay, he says, to protect the

board to the leadership of the right when Messrs. Chirac and Giscard d'Estaing retire. He will finally be pushed aside, but there are large opportunities to go wrong as well. Included in the poisoned gift that the Socialist government leaves behind is 10 percent (and rising) unemployment and an unprecedented level of public debt.

Hence, this is an election in which the Socialists are depressed and resigned to defeat, the right fearful of what it is taking on, as well as apprehensive about what will happen to it in 1995; and the voting public is apathetic, if not actively hostile to the political class. The press speaks of a "marcos" France; indeed it is.

And yet there is nothing seriously wrong. By comparison with Germany, Britain and Italy, France is in marvelous shape. It is in far sounder economic and social condition than the United States, even though the United States now at last is attacking its problems.

Germany is in grave financial difficulties because of the mishandling of reunification, and it experiences serious racial violence and social conflict. Britain is politically adrift, its leaders flailing, unemployment's rise seemingly unstoppable, the public demoralized, saying that it would abandon the country and emigrate if there were any place to go. Italians see virtually an entire generation of Italian politicians and industrialists compromised by public corruption or criminal links. By comparison with all of that, France's are only little local difficulties.

But that is not what the electorate thinks. Hence, this is a change election time, and in a cold Paris March the post-electoral springtime seems far away. International Herald Tribune. © Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

Compared with the problems of Germany, Britain and Italy, France's are only little local difficulties. But that is not what the electorate thinks.

people's "social gains" against what he suggests will be the conscienceless depredations of the right.

No one has serious doubts that the right will win. The only question is whether enough of the voters who put the Socialist Party into power five years ago will this time vote for the resurgent ecology parties (there are two of them) rather than the center-right, and thereby limit the opposition's expected landslide.

No great issue divides left from right. The Socialist government simply has crumbled under the pressure of financial scandal, congenitally over party funding, but among impatient individuals who skimmed funding took bribes or accepted compromising gifts and loans) and a public scandal over the government's responsibility in the distribution of AIDS-tainted blood to hemophiliacs. Add to that the boredom factor. People are greatly bored with the

Good Word From Syria: 'Gradually'

By Leslie H. Gelb

NEW YORK — Israeli diplomats told the new and untested American secretary of state to expect some kind of pleasant surprise in Damascus two weeks ago. President Hafez Assad of Syria, ever the seducer and strategist, did not disappoint. He gave Warren Christopher a secret diplomatic gift that could lead to a reworking of Middle Eastern battle lines and has already caused the United States, Syria and Israel to revamp negotiating priorities.

The Syrian strongman told the chief U.S. diplomat that he was ready for a major deal with Israel. He repeated public statements about trading "total peace" with Israel for "total withdrawal" by Israel from Syria's Golan Heights. Then he unwrapped his dramatic present: He would no longer insist on instant or even early Israeli withdrawal. He would agree to both sides carrying out their obligations "gradually."

This was precisely the magic word Yitzhak Rabin had been looking for. The Israeli prime minister had signaled his desire to exchange land for peace, but the security risk had to be manageable. Israel could not and would not take the chance of withdrawal from the Golan until Syria actually demonstrated peaceful intentions, and that would have to take time. Israel would feel safe only if it could bring its forces down from the heights gradually.

The sides still have to define "gradually." More important, they have to agree on the meanings of "total withdrawal" and "total peace." Israel is prepared for a near-total pullout, not a total one. Syria wants everything out, including Israel's civilian settlements.

Mr. Assad's diplo-biz surprised the Christopher party. They had expected him to wait longer before making any big moves, in order to assess President Bill Clinton's mettle. But the Syrian's agreeableness on the Golan and willingness to abandon unreasonable Palestinian demands convinced the Americans that he had even larger purposes in mind.

The subtext in the Assad-Christopher dialogue was that Damascus wants to establish a new relationship with Washington and felt that this was the right time to move. Mr. Assad knows that the only way to the American heart is through peace with Israel.

Mr. Rabin was, of course, delighted with Mr. Christopher's report of Syrian gradualism. Given the prime minister's intense personal commitment to a treaty with Syria, the Americans feared that he might be too delighted — and try to sidetrack the autonomy talks with the Palestinians.

If anything, however, Mr. Christopher ended up more frustrated with the Palestinians than Mr. Rabin was. In his meeting with Palestinian leaders he showed great impatience with their inability to make any decisions. They only wanted to talk about the return of their brethren deported by Israel and stranded in a Lebanese no-man's-land. Israel had already gone far to meet those concerns, but they kept demanding concessions that they knew Israel could not and would not give. Finally Mr. Christopher offered a generous solution — including U.S. pledges to speed up the deportees' return, oppose future deportations and support various United Nations resolutions prized by the Palestinians — and told them to take it or leave it.

The immediate upshot of the Christopher-Mideast tour was that the key parties agreed to switch negotiating priorities. They are now readying the fast track for a Syrian-Israeli deal and have relegated the tedious but still critical talks on Palestinian autonomy to a slower lane.

Arabs and Israelis alike praised Mr. Christopher's first outing on terrain that has proved either a graveyard or a springboard for his recent predecessors. He gave away nothing to the Syrians, was tough with the Palestinians and prodded the Israelis.

His only tactical mistake was a failure to pay enough attention to Shimon Peres, the Israeli foreign minister, whose power now rivals or exceeds Mr. Rabin's. The governing Labor Party and whose ideas on regional issues like economic development and arms control deserve a better hearing.

Mr. Christopher has begun to reveal a wily negotiating and public relations style. Taking a page from Henry Kissinger's script on how to lower expectations, he started his Mideast trip saying that he was going out there only to listen. He brought home the possibility of much more.

The New York Times.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1893: Latin Quarter Riot

PARIS — There was another disturbance in the Latin Quarter yesterday (March 4). It occurred at the Faculty of Law, when M. Ducros' lecture had to be suspended. The disturbance was caused by two lectures coming so close together that students complained they had not the time to breathe. After an unfortunate remark of M. Ducros, the riot commenced. Later, medical students started a disturbance, their grievance being that the first year of medical study ought to be suppressed as they consider it useless.

1918: An Ignoble Peace

PARIS — The Herald says in an editorial: The whole awful story of the Bolshevik treachery is reflected in a shameless peace treaty concluded with the Central Empires. Lenin and Trotsky have traded their country to Prussiaism. The great Muscovite giant lies prostrate, shorn of his strength by those who first cajoled

him by alluring phrases and then betrayed him to fulfill their bargain with their Potsdam paymaster. Russia is being signed by the Bolshevik, but it is incomprehensible that the nobler elements of the nation will accept such an ignominious destiny. Russia's potential strength is incalculable, and the giant may yet struggle to his feet.

1943: Roosevelt Cartoon

WASHINGTON — [From our New York edition:] A picture booklet, "Life of Franklin D. Roosevelt, Thirty-second President of the United States," published by the government and distributed in eleven languages besides English, was issued today [March 4] on the floor of the House by Representative John Taber, a New York Republican, as "a lot of cheap political propaganda" designed "to promote a fourth term and a dictatorship." The cost of the booklet to the taxpayers was \$13,951,950. It depicts, in cartoon-style, the life of the President from early boyhood to the present.

OPINION

To Tax, to Spend or to Cut and Run

WASHINGTON — "The supply-siders said you could reduce the deficit by cutting taxes," says a veteran Republican observer, "and they were wrong. The Clinton people say you can reduce the deficit without cutting spending and they are wrong."

By William Safire

1. Taxation is no longer a political sin. Bill Clinton has transmogrified his promised middle-class tax cut into a \$400-a-year-per-family energy tax increase, and sold it by hitting the upper brackets deliciously harder and acting as if he aches to cut the deficit.

supply-siders will say "never — let growth do it." Our Movement's position: Do it now. This steals the best reduction ideas from both sides and offers Perotism without Perot. What you lose in fiscal stimulus you gain in fiscal predictability. (Many in our Movement come to rallies in fiscal drag.)

We grumble about how Mr. Clinton double-crossed us with that "New Democrat" stuff, and is governing far more leftily than he campaigned, but such is politics. Now that he is using deficit reduction as his rallying cry, we should insist he deliver the goods on real deficit reduction.

We say that we want Mr. Clinton to succeed, but what we mean is that we want him to succeed using our tax-a-little, cut-a-lot way — or at least by making his sales pitch his real policy.

Clintonomics as it has been revealed — "tax and spend and keep on thinking about cutting tomorrow" — is not our policy. Like the Federal Reserve's Alan Greenspan, we prefer that Mr. Clinton cut more and tax less, because his high tax rates will bring back all the loopholes and armies of accountants that bend business decisions out of shape.

If the goal is balancing the budget, the Tax-and-Cut Movement thinks the New Direction is off in the wrong direction. We like free markets, not "strategic trade" managed by bureaucrats managed by lobbyists for monopolies of the style favored by Japan's Ministry of International Trade and Industry, or "industrial policy" turning over subsidies to electronic highways.

But the liberals are in, and we cannot expect them to act like conservatives. All the Reasonable Right can do is try to cool the new president's hot ideological excesses and remind the singer of the meaning of the words in his song. In time, there will be a demand for change.

The New York Times

Clintonomics — "tax and spend and keep on thinking about cutting tomorrow" — is not our policy. We prefer cutting more and taxing less; high tax rates will bring back loopholes and armies of accountants.

The deficit is to cut spending and raise taxes at the same time.

Too complex a thought, you say? You will be joined in your derision of this stunning concept by hordes of liberal economists who say that actually reducing spending now would drag down the economy, aborning the Clinton Recovery and throwing more people out of work.

You will also find conservative allies in hooting down the heresy of tax-and-cut. Supply-side economists are still certain that any tax increase would stifle the growth begun last year, which in turn would reduce tax revenues and make the deficit worse.

Under this barrage from both sides, the nascent tax-and-cut movement has agreed to submit its plan for computerized review to produce the prestigious Rightwing Pundits' Politico-Economic Confidence Index (RPPECI).

Let's input the data:

1. Deficit reduction is a political virtue, the motherhood and apple pie of the

5 percent growth rate, but this is widely seen to be too good to be true, and Democrats want stimulus by spending now and taxing a little later — while Republicans want to do neither and let the good times pick up steam.

Press ENTER. The lightning conclusion from the Prestigious Rightwing Pundits' Index:

Everybody is finding a good excuse not to reduce the deficit at all yet, and never to reduce it substantially.

A secondary, schadenfreudian conclusion: In the politics of contributory sacrifice, there is no greater pleasure than the illusion of shared pain.

O.K.; now the Tax-and-Cut Movement has something solid to work with.

We (and that's an editorial "we"); the Movement has yet to get moving; say that nobody can tell when the perfect moment will come to get serious about reducing the deficit.

The activist libs will always say "later, after we fix everything"; Clinton Perot says "someday, I'll run on a plan"; the

When Pulling the Plug Seems the Only Choice

By Philip Crawford

PARIS — The establishment in the Netherlands of rules by which a physician may help a terminally ill person take his own life is welcomed by those of us who have watched a loved one suffer through the final stages of a debilitating disease. The Dutch approach should serve as a model.

Sadly, many physicians support the concept of euthanasia but lack the

nerve to carry it out, or to go public with their feelings. Dozens of them have told me as much.

"Of course I approve of it in theory," goes a typical response, "but I don't know that I could do it."

About 12 years ago, my father told me one day that he had something important to talk about. Seated on a bed in a New Jersey hotel room, he suddenly burst into tears; it was the first time I had seen him even misty-eyed. He had been told that he had amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or Lou Gehrig's disease, he said. The first symptoms had been muscle twitches in his left shoulder that would not go away. The doctor had told him that most ALS patients were dead within five years of diagnosis. He could already feel the stiffness spreading into his arms.

For two years his neuromuscular system gradually deteriorated. First, he couldn't button his shirt. Then, he needed a cane to walk. His speech became slurred, as if he had had too much to drink.

We bought a wheelchair. Getting him dressed became a project. Through all of this, he tried to go on performing his job as a utility company executive; he wanted to show that he had no intention of going gentle into that good night.

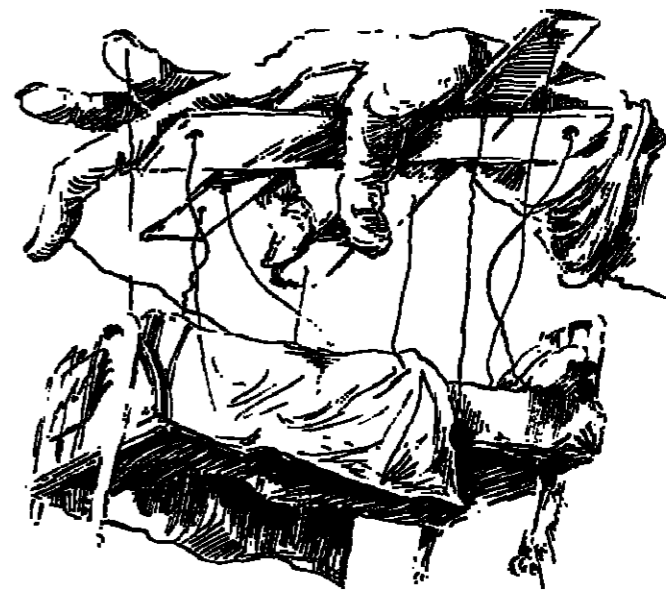
I remember wheeling him into a board meeting in New York one winter's day and seeing the horrified looks on the faces of people he had known for years who had no idea he was ill. He opened the meeting by struggling to say that, no matter how bad it looked, he expected to be in office for many years to come.

He wasn't, of course. Shortly after that, the company asked him to resign.

The disease gained momentum, although doctors could not say what the full extent of disability would ultimately be. In some ALS cases, paralysis suddenly stops progressing and patients live much longer.

Soon, however, my father could barely move or talk. He communicated through a special computer, an innovation at that time. The computer's face was composed of little glass windows that corresponded to the letters of the alphabet. He sat facing it, with a special sensor taped to the rim of his glasses. By moving his head and directing the sensor's light beam into the windows, he could "type" messages onto a remote printout panel.

This system worked great for a while. But then his neck muscles went; he couldn't hold up his head. It hung like a rag doll's unless it was tied to the back of his wheelchair. The computer went back to the clinic.



The final chapter was set in a hospital room, with his emaciated body hooked up to a battery of machines that kept him alive. I remember sitting there talking to him about death. He was not even a "talking head," that awful term sometimes used to describe quadriplegics. He could move one eyebrow a little, and press your arm ever so gently with a finger. That's all. One look into the deep wells of his eyes told you in no uncertain terms that he had had enough.

Recent medical research on ALS may have raised hopes for slowing its progress in a small percentage of victims. But to actually reverse the disease's ravages remains a dream.

My father was luckier than many in his state. His ulcer hemorrhaged two days later. This brought on cardiac arrest and rapid death. Otherwise, doctors said, he could have lived for months or even a year or two on the life-support system.

I am convinced that in those dreadful straits he would have wanted us to pull the plug; I trust we would have figured out a way to do it.

I am equally convinced that had "doctor-assisted suicide" been an option, he would have availed himself of it rather than live on as a paralyzed mute, as dependent as an infant on those around him.

Perhaps the Dutch legislation will give other countries the courage to develop similar provisions. That is probably asking too much, though. The trend seems to be in the other direction. In Michigan, lawmakers voted recently to make doctor-assisted suicide illegal.

What might help? Perhaps a few more physicians who see euthanasia for what it is — a righteous, dignified choice made under extraordinary circumstances — could stand up and be counted.

International Herald Tribune

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Taiwan Is China

Regarding "Taiwan Is Not China" (Letters, Jan. 27) from Mei-chin Chen:

It is factually and historically incorrect to say Taiwan is not a part of China. All Taiwanese, except for the aborigines, who make up about 1 percent of the population, are Chinese who came from the mainland over the past 350 years. The local dialect of Taiwan is basically the same as that of Fujian Province on the mainland side of the Taiwan Straits.

Since the 17th century, Taiwan has been formally a part of China, except for the period of Japanese occupation from 1895 to 1945. Because of the civil war in 1949 the government of the Republic of China moved to Taipei and the People's Republic of China was established in Beijing. But Taiwan's official status as a Chinese province never changed. Taiwan-

ese are Chinese just as Cantonese are Chinese and New Yorkers are American.

What Mr. Chen is really arguing for is not democracy but Taiwan independence. In a democratic Taiwan, the people are sovereign and are free to choose their destiny. A large majority of the people realize that racially, culturally, linguistically and geographically they are inextricably tied to the rest of China. Political reunification will be difficult and may take a long time because of the huge income gap between Taiwan and the mainland.

But with the rapid economic changes occurring on the mainland (financed largely by investors from Taiwan and Hong Kong), social and political change will be unavoidable, and what may seem difficult today may become a reality in the not too distant future.

CHIH-CHIEN HSU, Taipei

The Health of Health Care

Regarding "What Price Medical Care?" (Letters, Feb. 18):

Barbara Raither writes that she is "grateful that I was in France covered by national health insurance" but does not record the cost involved, which is one of the highest in the world.

Despite huge taxes, all European health systems, including the French apparatus, are in heavy deficit. As to the quality of the medicine concerned, American medical science is unquestionably the finest in the world.

HERBERT JOHNSON, Cannes

Patient, Heal Thyself

Regarding "Time to Look at Alternative Medicine" (Opinion, Feb. 3) by Charles R. Halpern:

We are responsible for the mess health care is in whenever we ask a physician — conventional or alternative — to do something for us that we should be doing for ourselves, be it eating fewer Twinkies, getting off the couch and jogging, or meditating instead of popping aspirin. Oh, what an expensive, deadly price is now being paid.

LINDA K. CLEMENT, Marly-le-Roi, France

Homophobia in France

Regarding "A French Perspective on War of the Sexes" (Back Page, Feb. 15) by Mary Blume:

French self-congratulation at the expense of Americans is all too familiar. Madame Badinter to the contrary, gay-bashing is rampant in France as well as the United States. As just one example, an acquaintance of mine spent three

months in the hospital after a bend of motorcycle tyres attacked a bar in central Paris. Naturally this and other incidents go unreported.

DAVID ROHN, Paris

Defending the EMU

Your newspaper normally gives a balanced and intelligent view on world affairs. But on the monetary crisis, I get a different impression.

I feel you have been helping, de facto, those who would prefer what is left of the European Monetary Union to disappear from the international horizon for as long as possible.

In recent days this has stopped. But the articles on the "plot" that you published on the basis of remarks by Chancellor Helmut Kohl or Prime Minister Pierre Bérégovoy encourage me to send

you my reactions: I, for one, certainly do not believe that the U.S. government is involved in any political plot against the European Monetary Union.

What has happened is that interests which feel the EMU threatens the most profitable way for them to run their business have established a "party line." Such a "party line" can become a powerful instrument to achieve political objectives and to influence political circles. I remain convinced that the EMU could make a real contribution to a more orderly and fair state of affairs in international finance.

HUBERT CARNIAUX, Brussels

Perfect Pitch

Regarding "West Indies Embarrass Pakistan" (Sports, Feb. 26):

How can the Western Australian Cricket Association justify firing their

groundsmen on the basis that he prepared a perfect pitch for the fifth test match against the West Indies? All these years I have been under the impression that cricket was a gentleman's game played by gentlemen, although a few English and Australian players have given me reason to doubt this.

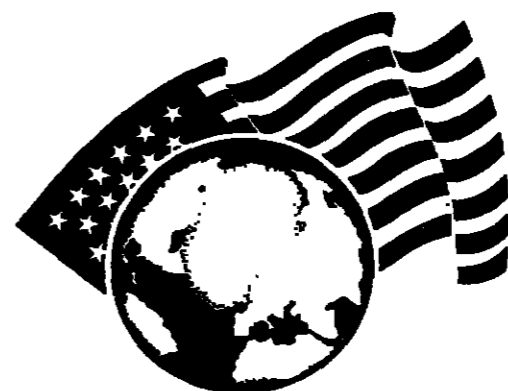
I cannot imagine Wimbledon's groundsmen being fired for not rigging the grass courts to favor John Lloyd against Jim Courier (the difference in ability being nearly the same as Australia and the West Indies). The Aussies lost by an inning, which is a walkover. Even if they had waterlogged the pitch, allowed the grass to grow and dug up the crease in order to give themselves an advantage, what makes them think that they would have won? Anyhow, firing a groundsmen for being good is quite simply: not cricket.

OLIVIER CHARDON, Paris

Pierre par pierre, maison par maison, rue par rue, Vaison-la-Romaine reprend goût à la ville. Ses 5700 habitants aussi. Ils reconstruisent leur ville grâce à vous, et pour vous remercier de votre formidable élan de solidarité, ils s'investissent également pour vous. Pour continuer de partager avec vous sa richesse historique, pour vous offrir sa douceur de vivre, pour vous faire profiter de son emplacement privilégié au sein d'un tissu économique favorable. Mais pour cela,

N'oublions pas de ne pas oublier Vaison la Romaine

vacanciers, entrepreneurs, n'oubliez pas de ne pas oublier Vaison-la-Romaine et les villages de l'Ouvèze.



WASHINGTON & WORLD BUSINESS SETTING THE NEW AGENDA

WASHINGTON, D.C., APRIL 29-30, 1993

In his inaugural address, President Clinton pledged an end to an era of deadlock and drift and a new season of American renewal.

This conference, co-sponsored by the European Council of American Chambers of Commerce and the International Herald Tribune, will provide a unique opportunity to learn first-hand what the President has accomplished in his first days in office and to see how his strategy for change will affect business relations between the United States and Europe.

The program will include cabinet members and other administration officials, members of Congress and influential representatives of American business, academia and the press.

The conference has already generated tremendous interest. For full program details, please send your business card, without delay, to:

Jane Blackmore Washington Conference International Herald Tribune 63 Long Acre, London WC2E 9JH Tel: (44 71) 836 4802 Fax: (44 71) 836 0717

LEISURE

Emperor

minute. I am never sure that what I cook is good. My duty is always to learn something new—you know the saying: "Every day bring a stone in the construction of the temple." Speak of humanness and you speak of solidarity. And what good cooking is all about.

Bruno, Route de Viduban, 83510 Lorgues. Phone: 94-73-92-19. American Express and Carte Blanche (Visa) accepted. Closed Sunday and Monday in winter; open daily during the rest of the year.

Christopher Peckham is the author of "At Home in France," a book about eating and entertaining in private French homes.



Air Pass: For Big Savings, Don't Leave Home Without It

By Roger Collis
International Herald Tribune

FLYING around North and South America, South Africa, Australia, India, and even Europe, has never been cheaper—cheaper than it is for overseas visitors who have had the foresight to purchase an air pass before they left home. They are rewarded with the best bargains in air travel.

For example, the normal round-trip coach fare Chicago-Los Angeles-Dallas-New York-Chicago is \$1,823. Traveling on an American Airlines air pass you'll pay \$327. With a Delta air pass you can travel Washington-Atlanta-Dallas-Miami for \$349 instead of the normal fare of \$1,040.

Air passes originated in the United States following deregulation in 1978. Over the

years, the variety of options worldwide has increased enormously and rules have been relaxed, which makes them a viable option for business travelers.

All of the major U.S. and Canadian carriers offer air passes for travel on their domestic networks. If you plan to visit more than three cities within North America on business or pleasure, an air pass can save you as much as 70 percent on the regular coach (economy) fares.

North American air passes are only sold to overseas visitors possessing a round-trip ticket on scheduled flights and must be bought before leaving home. Most airlines require you to fly either with them or a

national airline of the country you start from in order to buy their air passes. You may have to pay a supplement of \$100 or so if you fly in with a foreign carrier. The big no-no is that you cannot fly another U.S. airline.

Typically, an air pass is valid for 60 days from the time you start to use it. You normally buy it in the form of coupons, one for each segment of your itinerary. Sometimes each connecting flight counts as one coupon. With most air passes there is a minimum of two or three and a maximum of 10 coupons.

You must specify your itinerary in advance but only the first sector needs to be pre-booked; you can leave flights open and change the date and time of travel. You may be able to change your routing for a penalty of around \$25 to \$50.

Choosing an air pass is a matter of deciding which airline best serves the cities on your itinerary, the route you prefer to use to avoid, and the gateway for entering and leaving. You can't go far wrong with the air passes of United, Delta, American, and Northwest because of their extensive networks. Prices are much the same: three coupons will cost you about \$300. Expect to pay \$75 for each additional coupon.

A good way to combine economy with flexibility is the unlimited passes marketed by Delta and Northwest. These are on a standby basis, but allow you unlimited travel for a fixed number of days. Delta's 30 and 60 days standby passes cost \$449 and \$749. Northwest's 30-day standby is \$499 and allows you virtually unlimited travel in the U.S. and Canada.

Some U.S. carriers offer sidetrips to Hawaii, Mexico, Alaska or the Caribbean. For example, American charges \$225 for flights

to Hawaii and \$160 for Mexico. Northwest offers Alaska (from Seattle) for \$325 and Hawaii (from Los Angeles) for \$375. USAir markets a good value Florida/Bahamas pass (allowing flights within Florida and between Florida and the Bahamas) costing \$129 for two, \$179 for three and \$229 for four coupons.

Aerolineas Argentinas sells a four-coupon air pass for \$359 allowing up to 30 days of domestic travel. You can buy a maximum of eight coupons costing \$459. Vang has a similar deal for travel in Brazil. A minimum five coupons is \$440 and you can buy up to nine additional coupons at \$100 each. Vang has teamed up with Aerolineas Argentinas to offer the Maposair air pass which covers over 70 cities in the two countries as well as points in Paraguay and Uruguay. The cost depends on distance.

Air passes offer major savings in Australia and New Zealand. Qantas and Australian Airways market a joint pass. Two coupons cost from 370 Australian dollars (\$257), depending on the sectors and you can buy up to eight additional coupons for 140 Australian dollars each. Fly Sydney-Brisbane for 120 Australian dollars, a saving of around 50 percent, with the Australian Airlines air pass. You can buy as many coupons as you wish, and save 25 to 50 percent on normal fares. International travelers with Air New Zealand can buy its three-coupon pass at 399 New Zealand dollars (\$208). Eight flights costs 920 New Zealand dollars.

South African Airways sells a four-to-eight-coupon African Explorer pass, valid for one month, which can save up to 60 percent on SAA domestic and regional flights to Mauritius, Zambia, Zimbabwe,

Namibia and Kenya. A journey starting, for example, in Johannesburg to Harare, Durban, and Cape Town costs 1,327 rand (\$423) with the air pass, compared with the normal fare of 1,969 rand.

Fly any carrier into India and you qualify for Indian Airlines' unlimited travel pass. This is valid for 21 days and costs \$400. The only condition is that you can only make one stopover in each city.

Air passes are starting to emerge in Europe as airlines learn how to compete with the new climate of liberalization. SAS markets a Visit Scandinavia air pass for domestic flights in Denmark, Sweden and Norway, plus international flights to all three countries. It is also valid in on Linjeflyg domestic flights in Sweden and Danair in Denmark. It is available to residents of some European countries. In Britain, for example, you can buy one coupon for £50 and two for £100.

Additional coupons (maximum six) cost £40 each. You must fly SAS to the region.

British Airways markets a pass for domestic travel in Britain in countries outside Europe and Israel. You can buy three to 12 coupons costing £39 each (£49 if you fly through London).

A month ago, Air France, Air Inter, Sabena, and CSA Czechoslovak Airlines, started jointly marketing a Euro Flyer pass to residents of North and Central America, South America, Africa (except North Africa), Australia, Hong Kong, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia. The pass enables you to fly whenever you wish in economy class on all of the European routes of the four airlines for \$120 per flight sector. You can buy up to nine coupons that are valid for stays of seven to 60 days. You must purchase the pass with a round-trip to France, Belgium or the Czech Republic with a participating carrier.

DO'S AND DON'TS

Avoid Short Flights
Don't waste coupons on short sectors like New York-Boston. You'll get best value by flying distances like New York-San Francisco.

Check Eligibility Conditions
Do check whether you must fly an airline all the way from your city of origin to qualify for its air pass. As a rule you can fly a national carrier but not, for example, a competing U.S. airline.

Mostly Economy Class
Don't forget air passes are mostly for coach (economy). Northwest allows you to upgrade to first class.

Hub Connections
Do check whether connecting through a hub, if there's no direct flight, counts as one or two coupons. For example, USAir allows you fly New York-Charlotte-Miami for one coupon.

Frequent Traveler

years, the variety of options worldwide has increased enormously and rules have been relaxed, which makes them a viable option for business travelers.

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Food for Thought in Swiss Museum

By Israel Shenker

VEVY, Switzerland—Near the entrance to the Alimentarium, a food museum on the shores of Lake Geneva, stands the figure of a fabulous beast symbolic of animal food and worthy of the witches' brew in "Macbeth"—head of chicken, flank of sheep, body of cow, rump of pig, fins of fish. More down to earth is the museum garden outside, host not to flowers and shrubs but to herbs and vegetables.

Inside, the exuberance of nature is tamed into a series of exhibits displayed with ingenious skill. On three bright floors, filled with glass and white space, visitors can savor the pleasures of imaginative pedagogy.

Beyond the glassed-in entrance the first of three permanent exhibits, "From the Sun to the Consumer," portrays the flow of energy and matter through the food chain. The next exhibit, "Their Daily Bread," examines the habits of peoples widely separated, demonstrating how radically their diets differ.

The third exhibit, "Food in the Past," shows how food has developed from its primitive beginnings, with displays of tools and techniques marking the progression.

The Alimentarium, in this resort town, was dreamed up by the Nestlé company's management in the early 1980s. A foundation bankrolled by the company runs the museum.

Before the Alimentarium opened in 1985, the museum dispatched ethnologists from

the University of Neuchâtel to a Cameroon village to bring back material on millet, to the Philippines (rice), to the Peruvian Andes (potatoes and corn) and to Turkey (wheat).

Their "Daily Bread" displays sample huts and rooms from these four corners of the world. Authenticity is guaranteed—except that the peanuts in the Cameroon hut proved so tempting that they had to be glued down.

One might also be tempted by the computer-analyzing body weight in the introductory exhibit, where you can key in the requested information (occupation, height, exercise habits) and see how you measure up.

Nearby, visitors are invited to test their sense of smell at the aroma table by dipping a slip of paper into a numbered slot and guessing which food provided the aroma.

Near scenes of banqueting displayed in "Food in the Past," are earphones on which visitors can hear actors impersonating celebrated chefs, including Marie Antoinette Carême (1784-1833) and Auguste Escoffier (1847-1935).

Carême: "My taste is very sure... and you have to admit I'm very gifted." Escoffier boasts that he uses only natural ingredients.

In most of its exhibits, the museum aims at neutrality. One display advises that "Alcoholic beverages are both foods and drugs." An-

other, coming perilously close to partisanship, suggests that "It's not chocolate that should be avoided but an excess of chocolate."

Recently, a display in the basement featured a chocolate-making machine with a capacity of 20 kilograms, or about 44 pounds. The machine has a roller that moves back and forth in a vat of milk chocolate, smoothing and blending and aerating. From molds into which the chocolate was poured, visitors were offered samples. Until the museum took countermeasures, curious children routinely dipped exploratory fingers into the cocoa butter. "They like to see with their fingers," said the museum's administrator, Monique Riedel.

In "The Sun to the Consumer," children can step inside a giant open mouth, perch on white stools disguised as teeth—12 upper, 12 lower—and view a film entitled "King Alphonse's Teeth," in which a talking rabbit advises His Gluttonous Majesty to adopt a healthy diet, brush the royal choppers after every meal and see the court dentist twice a year.

The museum claims that a tiny permanent exhibit in "Food in the Past"—about four inches (10 centimeters) long and less than two inches wide—is the world's oldest surviving staff of life, a bread roll from an Egyptian tomb dating to at least 2200 B.C. The minuscule treasure, looking like a burnt Little Mac caparisoned with a green pancake, is celebrated in the Guinness Book of Records. It has honey inside, and perhaps milk, with sesame seeds topside.

The museum flaunts not only farm machinery and tools but a clockwork mechanism (this is, after all, Switzerland) for a hand-forged turnspit. Other exhibits include wood stoves, gas and electric ranges, pastry wheels, devices for stuffing sausages, butter molds and milk sterilizers. There are even baby bottles from the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, from primitive to highest tech.

In photographs and on well-laden tables, there are scenes of plenty; other exhibits illustrate poverty. One graphic display in "Food in the Past" documents the drop in workers' buying power during the crisis

years of 1816-17, when the number of bread loaves a Vevey day-laborer could buy for his family fell from nine to three. Even for classless societies there is food for thought. With model cows and people, the museum illustrates how 2.5 acres (a hectare) of wheat can feed 20 people or two cows.

The chateau housing the Alimentarium, erected at the end of World War I, was once the headquarters of the Nestlé and Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk Company, which moved to a modern glass colossus not far away. The interior of the chateau was all but gutted during its transformation into a space suitable for a museum. In front of the museum, isolated from its gastronomic splendors, stands a statue of Charlie Chaplin, in tramp's guise, erected in memory of the actor who lived near Vevey.

The Alimentarium receives about 50,000 visitors annually, a third of them schoolchildren. The entry fee is \$3.30, about \$2 for children. The museum includes not only photographs of cafes but also a genuine cafeteria.

Israel Shenker, a former New York Times correspondent who travels frequently to Switzerland, wrote this for the Times.

THE ARTS GUIDE

AUSTRIA

Vienna
Kunsthistorisches Museum (tel: 52.177). To June 27: "Die Welt der Maya." More than 300 objects explore the world of the Mayas spanning Belize, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico.

BELGIUM

Antwerp
Koninklijk Museum voor Schone (tel: 236.78.09). To March 7: "De Bruegel a Rubens: L'Ecole de Peinture Anversoise, 1550-1850." One hundred and fifty works by local artists throughout the century.

BRITAIN

Birmingham
Ikon Gallery (tel: 643.0708). To April 3: "In Fusion: New European Art." A display of paintings, sculptures, photomedia, installation and performance art by 11 young, contemporary artists.

CANADA

Ottawa
National Gallery of Canada (tel: 930.19.65). To May 9: "Mary Cassatt: Ten of the artist's color prints, along with works by some of her contemporaries.

GERMANY

Berlin
Städtische Museen (tel: 266.2829). To May 31: "Die Erster und Europa." As part of an effort to promote cultural exchange in the European community, this exhibit of European art is on loan from the French National collection.

IRELAND

Dublin
The Irish Museum of Modern Art (tel: 718.885). To April 18: "Marie Foley: Sculpture." Foley's pieces comprised of found objects, porcelain, bog oak and slate, explore human spirituality and ancient cultures.

ISRAEL

Jerusalem
The Israel Museum (tel: 70.88.11). To May 24: "When Grandmothers and Young Children." Posters, Grandmothers, toys, photographs, books, utensils, toys and games from the '30s and '40s. In addition, there will be a presentation of paintings from a children's art competition which was held in 1943.

FRANCE

Paris
Centre Georges Pompidou (tel: 44.78.12.33). To May 2: "Bernard Bazile." A series of large installations



Photo from "Hidden Americas" exhibit in Washington.

ITALY

Turin
Castello di Rivoli (tel: 558.7256). To April 25: "Torino e l'Arte." An exhibition on Turin's role in contemporary culture and art between 1950 and 1970.

JAPAN

Himeji
Himeji City Museum of Art (tel: 82.22.22.88). To April 11: "Pictures, Stories and Poems." More than 60 pictures pertaining to subjects found in literary works, including Picasso's etchings for a Balzac novel and Matsuo's etchings for a collection of poems.

KYOTO

The National Museum of Modern Art (tel: 751.4111). To April 18: "Craft Works From All Over the World." Included are more than 500 articles including pottery, glass, dyed textiles and jewelry.

NETHERLANDS

Groningen
Groninger Museum (tel: 183.343). To April 25: "Mirror of East Asian Art from the Rijksmuseum Amsterdam." Works from China, Japan, India, Indonesia and Nepal executed between the 2d and 17th centuries.

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NYSE

Thursday's Closing
Tables include the nationwide prices up to the closing on Wall Street and do not reflect late trades elsewhere. Via The Associated Press

Symbol	High	Low	Open	Close	Change
IBM	115 1/4	114 3/4	115 1/4	115 1/4	+1/4
MSFT	45 1/4	44 3/4	45 1/4	45 1/4	+1/4
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Boeing Says Boom Is Coming In Aircraft Sales and Air Travel

By Lawrence M. Fisher
New York Times Service

SAN FRANCISCO — Boeing Co. said Thursday that it expected world air travel and demand for new airplanes, to recover from the industry's current slump, resulting in substantial growth by the end of the decade.

The Boeing 1993 Current Market Outlook, released Thursday, predicts that worldwide passenger travel will grow at an average annual rate of 5.4 percent through 2010. As a result, at least 12,000 commercial airplanes will be needed over the next 18 years to accommodate growth and replace older airplanes.

Boeing estimated the value of the 12,000 aircraft at about \$815 billion in 1993 dollars, averaging \$45 billion a year, compared with sales of \$21 billion annually for the past 20 years. Its estimate did not represent a significant change from its projections of a year ago.

Boeing's optimistic outlook comes after two months in which it announced plans to scale back production of all of its commercial aircraft and to eliminate 28,000 jobs over the next 18 months. Boeing said the cuts were necessary because of orders that had been canceled or delayed orders by airlines hit by the global economic slump.

At a news conference in Washington, Richard R. Albrecht, executive vice president of the Boeing Commercial Airplane Group, said that

after an overall traffic decline in 1991, air travel improved during 1992.

"However, especially in the case of the domestic carriers," he said, "some of this growth came at the expense of yield," or revenue per passenger mile, because of the recession and competitive fare-cutting by airlines.

Boeing's overall forecast "remains plausible," said Wolfgang Demisch, an analyst with UBS Securities. But, he said, "The principal uncertainty remains: Does the global trade and investment framework remain as dependent on global transportation in the next 20 years as in the last 20 years? The airlines, at least right now, are in fact fairly close to break-even, and it wouldn't take too much to put them into the black, and perhaps even into the red."

Boeing said the Asia/Pacific region, especially China, would see the highest growth rates in the near future. Japan and China respectively are the second and third largest aircraft markets after the United States. "This highlights the importance to Boeing of maintaining favorable trade relations with Japan and most-favored-nation status for China," Mr. Albrecht said.

For Boeing to capture a significant share of future aircraft sales, it will have to remain competitive with Airbus Industrie, the European consortium.

For Boeing, Mr. Demisch said, "the challenge is to get their costs down, get their productivity up and expand their product line."

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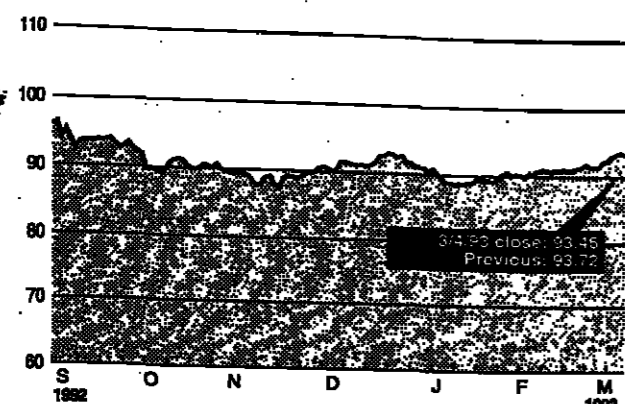
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THE TRIB INDEX: 93.46
International Herald Tribune World Stock Index of 230 internationally investable stocks from 20 countries...



The index tracks U.S. dollar values of stocks in Tokyo, New York, London, and Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Singapore, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland...

Table with 3 columns: Asia/Pacific, Europe, N. America. Includes sub-tables for Industrial Sectors and a list of countries.

Barclays Loss Brings Dividend Cut

By Erik Ipsen
LONDON — Barclays Bank brought low by £2.54 billion (\$3.68 billion) of bad debts in 1992, reported Thursday its first full-year pretax loss since it was incorporated nearly a century ago.

both responsibilities," said Mr. Buxton, who had first hinted at such a move in December. Mr. Buxton refused, however, to be pinned down as to when the bank would announce a new top executive or whether the search was on for a new chief executive or chairman.

"I personally have not been in the credit side of the bank in that period." Barclays executives say they expect bad-debt provisions to decline this year, allowing the bank to return to profit. But Mark Rorison, an analyst with Nikko Securities, said Barclays would have to make a profit of more than £500 million to raise its dividend again.

Salomon Loss Underlines Risk In Rate Decline

By Michael Quint
NEW YORK — Salomon Brothers said Thursday it had a loss of \$250 million in the first two months of the year, a reminder that firms that earn big profits on speculative trading also run the risk of comparable losses.

The loss was blamed on "proprietary trading," a risky but often profitable activity in which Salomon uses its own money to speculate in securities, currencies and commodities, as well as various futures and options contracts.

China Mutes Criticism of Hong Kong

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches
HONG KONG — China made only a low-key protest on Thursday over Hong Kong's announcement that it would run a series of deficit budgets between now and 1997, when the territory reverts to Chinese rule.

Chan, head of the China Business Center at Hong Kong Polytechnic. "But they won't react immediately. There's too much at stake."

30 percent above its levels of early December when Chinese threats against the colony wiped billions of stock values.

WALL STREET WATCH

AmEx's Ousted Leader Got a Lot, Wants More

By Jon Friedman
NEW YORK — The battle between James D. Robinson 3d and the board of American Express Co. over the embittered former chairman's compensation package is developing into a high-stakes game of poker. Each side holds hole cards that could damage the other's business reputation.

James D. Robinson sought a plethora of perks in his severance package. "Jim got what he was entitled to — but not a penny more," said one former American Express executive.

French Contracts Frozen In Retaliation by Beijing

Agence France-Press
PARIS — China has frozen some 2 billion francs (\$363 million) of telecommunications contracts in retaliation for France's sale of state-of-the-art fighter planes to Taiwan, a spokesman for Alcatel-CIT said Thursday.

Mainland Firm Buys Control of Laws Property

Bloomberg Business News
HONG KONG — Shares in Laws Property Holdings soared Thursday following the announcement that a company controlled by a major China-based corporation was buying 67.7 percent of the Hong Kong-listed real estate concern.

Virgin Refuses to Take Silence Vow

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches
LONDON — Virgin Atlantic Airways is willing to accept \$9 million (\$13 million) in compensation from British Airways PLC for a dirty tricks campaign, but the smaller airline refused Thursday to keep quiet about it.

cusing or mentioning the affair in court in response to allegations by Virgin of poaching passengers, heading into Virgin's computers and smearing the airline's name and that of Mr. Branson.

CURRENCY & INTEREST RATES

Table with multiple columns: Cross Rates, Eurocurrency Deposits, Key Money Rates, Other Dollar Values, Forward Rates. Includes various financial data points and interest rates.

FIDELITY SPECIAL GROWTH FUND

Société d'Investissement à Capital Variable
Kansallis House
Place de l'Étoile
L-1021 Luxembourg
R.C. Luxembourg B 20095

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders of FIDELITY SPECIAL GROWTH FUND, a société d'investissement à capital variable organised under the laws of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg (the "Fund"), will be held at the principal office of the Fund, Kansallis House, Place de l'Étoile, Luxembourg, at 11:00 a.m. on March 25, 1993, specifically, but without limitation, for the following purposes:

Fidelity Investments logo and contact information. Includes text: "Fidelity Investments", "Investment Services", "100 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10017-1099".

MARKET DIARY Stocks End Lower On Poor U.S. Data

Bloomberg Business News NEW YORK — Sobering news on the U.S. economy pushed stock prices modestly lower on Thursday...

MARKET: Bond Yields Tumble

(Continued from page 1) On Monday, the National Association of Purchasing Management said its index showed that manufacturing is still expanding...

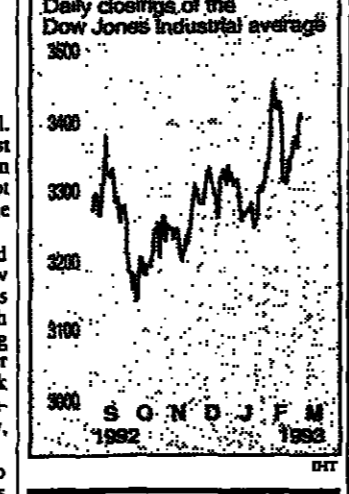
Oil Prices Hit 4-Month High

NEW YORK — Petroleum prices finished at their highest levels since late October on Thursday. Buying intensified after sellers did not try to take profits from the rally, analysts said.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Table of world stock markets including Amsterdam, Brussels, Frankfurt, Johannesburg, London, Madrid, Milan, Montreal, Paris, Sao Paulo, Singapore, Stockholm, Toronto, Zurich, and others.

The Dow



NYSE Most Active

Table of NYSE most active stocks including IBM, Microsoft, and others.

AMEX Most Active

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NASDAQ Diary

Table of NASDAQ trading diary with columns for stock names, prices, and changes.

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NYSE Indexes

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NASDAQ Indexes

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Metals

Table of metal futures prices.

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Table of livestock futures prices.

Food

Table of food futures prices.

Financial

Table of financial futures prices.

U.S. / AT THE CLOSE

Pepsi Invests \$750 Million in Mexico

NEW YORK (NYT) — The global expansion of American cola companies gathered pace as Pepsi-Cola International said Thursday it would invest \$750 million over the next five years in its operations in Mexico.

Mulford Will Head CS First Boston

NEW YORK (Bloomberg) — David C. Mulford, the former undersecretary of the Treasury and vice chairman of First Boston Corp., will be named chairman and chief executive of First Boston's parent, Credit Suisse-First Boston, at year-end.

SCI to Cede Control to Perelman

NEW YORK (AP) — SCI Television Inc. sought protection Thursday under federal bankruptcy laws and said it had already reached agreement with key creditors on a plan that would give control to the financier Ronald O. Perelman.

Philip Morris Rules Out Cadbury Bid

NEW YORK (AP) — A spokesman for Philip Morris Cos. said Thursday that the purchase of the British chocolate manufacturer Terry's means the U.S. company is not at present looking to buy Cadbury-Schweppes PLC.

U.S. Upholds Steel Dumping Duties

WASHINGTON (Knight-Ridder) — The U.S. International Trade Commission, in a final ruling, voted unanimously Thursday to impose duties on subsidized steel-product imports from Britain, Brazil, France and Germany that it says are harming the U.S. steel industry.

Oil Prices Hit 4-Month High

NEW YORK — Petroleum prices finished at their highest levels since late October on Thursday. Buying intensified after sellers did not try to take profits from the rally, analysts said.

U.S. / AT THE CLOSE

Large table of U.S. market data including stock prices, bond yields, and commodity prices.

Bull's Loss Deepens Amid Market Crisis

By Roger Cohen
Underlying the European computer industry crisis, the French state-owned Compagnie des Machines Bull announced Thursday a 1992 net loss of 4.72 billion francs (\$850 million).

computer business. Manufacturers including Olivetti of Italy and Siemens-Nixdorf of Germany have faced substantial losses recently in the face of stiff competition, plunging prices for personal computers and a European recession.

Paris and Rome To Fund SGS Research Effort

PARIS — The French and Italian governments will each contribute 2.55 billion francs (\$459 million) to a 9.43 billion franc research and development program that SGS-Thomson Microelectronics BV will carry out to 1996.

He decided to set a new target for Bull to break even on its current operations. But he said the company had opted to make heavy provisions this year in order to improve its future results, and said the net loss in 1993 would be much lower.

BBL's Profit and Payout Fall

BRUSSELS — Banque Bruxelles Lambert SA, Belgium's second-largest bank, reported a record profit and cut its dividend Thursday and said it was making large provisions against losses on its international operations.

Philips Recovery Hopes Fade

Flat Sales Foreseen After Big 1992 Loss

By Barbara Smit
Special to the Herald Tribune
EINDHOVEN, Netherlands — Hopes for an early recovery for Philips Electronics NV grew dimmer Thursday after the company posted a loss of 900 million guilders (\$486.7 million) for 1992, in contrast to profit of 1.1 billion guilders in 1991.

The results were roughly in line with market expectations, partly because some figures had been leaked to the Dutch newspaper Het Financieel Dagblad. Philips shares rose 1.10 guilders in Amsterdam on Thursday, closing at 22.50 guilders.

DSM Expects Difficulties to Persist

Bloemberg Business News
HEERLEN, Netherlands — DSM NV, the Dutch chemicals company, said Thursday it expected the deteriorating market situation seen in the fourth quarter of 1992 to drag on.

The situation in Germany is a particular worry to DSM, said the chairman, Hans van Liemt. He said economic forecasts for 1992 and 1993 had all proved to be too optimistic.

Steel Firms In Germany Cut Further

Germany's Largest Steel Concern

Germany's largest steel concern, Thyssen Stahl AG, said Thursday it was closing several plants and cutting 4,500 jobs, while at the rival Krupp group an estimated 20,000 workers downed tools to protest planned job cuts there.

Separately, about 1,600 East German metalworkers staged wildcat strikes in Brandenburg state to protest the industry's cancellation of wage contracts that had provided for a 26 percent wage increase.

Investor's Europe
Table with columns: Exchange, Index, Thursday Close, Prev. Close, % Change. Includes data for Frankfurt DAX, London FTSE 100 Index, Paris CAC 40, Amsterdam CBS Trend, Brussels Stock Index, Frankfurt DAX, Frankfurt FAZ, Helsinki HEX, London Financial Times 30, London FTSE 100, Madrid General Index, Milan MIB, Paris CAC 40, Stockholm Aftersvaerden, Vienna Stock Index, Zurich SBS.

Very briefly:
Alcatel-Alsthom's chairman, Pierre Suard, said Alcatel might take a stake in France Telecom if the state-owned company were privatized.

NYSE

Table with columns: High, Low, Stock Name, Price, Change. Includes various stock listings.

NYSE High-Lows

Table with columns: High, Low, Stock Name, Price, Change. Includes various stock listings.

NYSE High-Lows

Table with columns: High, Low, Stock Name, Price, Change. Includes various stock listings.

NYSE High-Lows

Table with columns: High, Low, Stock Name, Price, Change. Includes various stock listings.

Hoechst Denies Cancer Risk

FRANKFURT — Hoechst AG said Thursday a toxic substance that escaped from its Frankfurt plant and blanketed a suburb with a sticky yellow film had not caused any increased cancer risk.

Advertisement for swissair featuring a portrait of a man and the text 'People at the top read the Trib.' and 'Herald Tribune'.

NOTICE TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF DAIWA CAPITAL - L.C.F. EDMOND DE ROTHSCHILD INTERNATIONAL EQUITY FUND. Includes agenda items like 'Approval of the report of the Board of Directors' and 'Appointment of the outgoing Directors'.

At Skoda, the workers and their trade union also offer what is often missing in affluent Germany these days: a willingness to put in something extra.

Despite the wide disparity in wage rates, there is no similar gap in capability. "The workers in my country are as good as they are in Germany," boasted Karel Dyba, the Czech minister of economics.

Matra Seeks to Block Ford-VW Plant

Bloomberg Business News
 BRUSSELS — Matra-Hachette SA said Thursday that it had lodged a complaint with the European Court of Justice over the EC Commission's approval of a joint venture between Volkswagen AG and Ford Motor Co. to build a car plant in Portugal.
 The French holding company, which is the inventor and maker of the Renault Espace minivan, said that it had filed a complaint 10 days ago to the Luxembourg-based Court of First Instance because the commission's decision in December was "excessively favorable" to Ford-Volkswagen.
 The commission approved the joint venture because it said it would favor job creation, boost technological innovation, and help new entrants onto the market, which is currently dominated by Matra-Hachette.
 The Portuguese plant will have the capacity

to produce 190,000 minivans annually when it opens in 1996.
 Matra-Hachette is objecting because 190,000 vehicles would give Ford-Volkswagen around 50 percent of the European market by 1996, the statement said.
 Last year 100,000 minivans were sold in Europe, 65,000 of which were the Renault Espace model. The director general of Matra-Hachette, Frédéric D'Allest, told journalists at a news conference that his company expected demand rise to 400,000 by 1996.
 The complaint is the second Matra-Hachette has made to the European Court of Justice, the EC's highest legal authority, relating to the Ford-Volkswagen plant. The court is set to rule before April 28 on a complaint over an earlier EC decision to grant 750 million E us (\$885 million) of regional aid to the plant.
 "The plant won't produce more than 500,000

jobs," said Mr. D'Allest. He compared the money granted for the Ford-Volkswagen plant with the proposed 240 million Ecu of EC regional aid to cushion the effects of planned restructuring in Europe's steel industry, where between 50,000 and 100,000 jobs could be lost.
 He also pointed to mass layoffs planned by both Ford in Britain and Volkswagen in Germany. "Is it really reasonable to sacrifice millions of Ecu for the new Ford-Volkswagen plant when those same companies are shedding thousands of jobs elsewhere in Europe?" Mr. D'Allest said.
 He said that Matra-Hachette had developed a third generation of Renault Espace minivans to be launched when the company saw fit.

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NASDAQ

Thursday's Prices
 NASDAQ prices as of 4 p.m. New York time. This list compiled by the AP, consists of the 1,000 most traded securities in terms of dollar value. It is updated twice a year.

12 Month High	12 Month Low	Div	Yld	PE	100s	High	Low	Label	Chg
40 1/2	39 1/2					40 1/2	39 1/2	IBM	+
34 1/2	33 1/2					34 1/2	33 1/2	MSFT	+
28 1/2	27 1/2					28 1/2	27 1/2	ORCL	+
24 1/2	23 1/2					24 1/2	23 1/2	INTL	+
20 1/2	19 1/2					20 1/2	19 1/2	QCOM	+
16 1/2	15 1/2					16 1/2	15 1/2	TXN	+
12 1/2	11 1/2					12 1/2	11 1/2	WDC	+
8 1/2	7 1/2					8 1/2	7 1/2	SGS	+
4 1/2	3 1/2					4 1/2	3 1/2	QSI	+
2 1/2	1 1/2					2 1/2	1 1/2	QPL	+

AMEX

Thursday's Closing
 Tables include the nationwide prices up to the closing on Wall Street and do not reflect late trades elsewhere. Via The Associated Press

12 Month High	12 Month Low	Div	Yld	PE	100s	High	Low	Label	Chg
40 1/2	39 1/2					40 1/2	39 1/2	IBM	+
34 1/2	33 1/2					34 1/2	33 1/2	MSFT	+
28 1/2	27 1/2					28 1/2	27 1/2	ORCL	+
24 1/2	23 1/2					24 1/2	23 1/2	INTL	+
20 1/2	19 1/2					20 1/2	19 1/2	QCOM	+
16 1/2	15 1/2					16 1/2	15 1/2	TXN	+
12 1/2	11 1/2					12 1/2	11 1/2	WDC	+
8 1/2	7 1/2					8 1/2	7 1/2	SGS	+
4 1/2	3 1/2					4 1/2	3 1/2	QSI	+
2 1/2	1 1/2					2 1/2	1 1/2	QPL	+

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40 1/2	39 1/2					40 1/2	39 1/2	IBM	+
34 1/2	33 1/2					34 1/2	33 1/2	MSFT	+
28 1/2	27 1/2					28 1/2	27 1/2	ORCL	+
24 1/2	23 1/2					24 1/2	23 1/2	INTL	+
20 1/2	19 1/2					20 1/2	19 1/2	QCOM	+
16 1/2	15 1/2					16 1/2	15 1/2	TXN	+
12 1/2	11 1/2					12 1/2	11 1/2	WDC	+
8 1/2	7 1/2					8 1/2	7 1/2	SGS	+
4 1/2	3 1/2					4 1/2	3 1/2	QSI	+
2 1/2	1 1/2					2 1/2	1 1/2	QPL	+

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34 1/2	33 1/2					34 1/2	33 1/2	MSFT	+
28 1/2	27 1/2					28 1/2	27 1/2	ORCL	+
24 1/2	23 1/2					24 1/2	23 1/2	INTL	+
20 1/2	19 1/2					20 1/2	19 1/2	QCOM	+
16 1/2	15 1/2					16 1/2	15 1/2	TXN	+
12 1/2	11 1/2					12 1/2	11 1/2	WDC	+
8 1/2	7 1/2					8 1/2	7 1/2	SGS	+
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16 1/2	15 1/2					16 1/2	15 1/2	TXN	+
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28 1/2	27 1/2					28 1/2	27 1/2	ORCL	+
24 1/2	23 1/2					24 1/2	23 1/2</		

Profitable Brierley Is to Raise Funds

Wellington — New Zealand's Brierley Investments Ltd. posted an improved six-month net profit on Thursday despite its depressed British hotel operations, and then surprised the market by asking shareholders for more funds to pay for acquisitions.

BIL, the investment company founded by Sir Ron Brierley and now run by protégé who ousted him, reported a profit of 112.7 million New Zealand dollars (\$58 million) for the six months to Dec. 31, up 24.5 percent from the year-earlier period. BIL said it was confident of an increased annual result, too.

But BIL shares fell 9 cents to 1 dollar as the market reacted to the announcement that the company would issue an interest-bearing convertible note for every eight shares held, at 85 cents per note, to raise 270 million dollars.

Revenue in the six months fell 60 percent to 1.1 billion dollars. Debt

fall to 3.92 billion dollars from 4.1 billion a year earlier.

The chairman, Bob Mathew, said the group's operating companies contributed two-thirds of the overall profit.

BIL has more than 30 percent of its assets tied up in Mount Charlotte PLC, the British hotel concern of which it owns 70 percent. Hit by Britain's recession, Mount Charlotte had a profit of just £2.1 million (\$3.03 million).

Earnings from all British investments, hit by the pound's devaluation, fell to 5 million dollars from 123 million a year earlier.

Mr. Mathew said better performance in New Zealand units reflected corporate restructuring and an improving local economy.

Air New Zealand, in which Brierley holds 35 percent of the Class A shares, reported an 8.7 percent rise in half-year profit.

The New Zealand tower, DB Group, formerly known as M&G Corp., returned to profit in the latest half, Brierley said. Brierley holds a 27 percent investment in DB.

Brierley said investments in Australia turned to a profit of 23 million New Zealand dollars.

June Debut In H.K. for China Firm

Bloomberg Business News
HONG KONG — The first of China's state-run companies wishing to list shares in Hong Kong will probably debut in June, the chief executive of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange said Thursday. First to the gate is expected to be Shanghai Petroleum.

Paul Chow said at an American Chamber of Commerce luncheon that the only hold-up in listing the companies was compliance with Hong Kong's listing rules and regulations.

Protection for minority shareholders has been a particular stumbling block, he said. China has no laws protecting minority shareholder rights.

Beijing said in October that nine state-run companies would be permitted to raise capital by listing in Hong Kong. But to list shares, the companies must comply with exchange disclosure rules, something they have never had to submit to before.

The "China Nine," as they are known in Hong Kong, include large industrial companies from every corner of the country.

The debut of Chinese stocks will change the face of the colony's exchange, which is largely made up of smaller, light-industrial companies.

"The Chinese companies will provide a good mix for investors to choose from when they look to the Hong Kong market," Mr. Chow said. "We're going to see the Hong Kong market develop hand-in-hand with China."

India to Ease Currency Rules Reform Plan Brings Fresh Liberalization

NEW DELHI — Finance Minister Manmohan Singh revealed Thursday that he planned further easing of exchange controls as part of his economic overhaul.

In an interview with the Economic Times, published Thursday, Mr. Singh said his weekend budget was designed to consolidate a reform program that has reversed four decades of socialism and to revive industrial growth hurt by earlier cuts in spending.

Although Mr. Singh floated the rupee on Tuesday, he said other exchange controls remained. Many of these would be lifted over the next 18 months and would mean the rupee could be traded under free-market conditions for travel abroad, the repatriation of profits by multinational companies and for trade purposes. The rupee has strengthened this week.

Mr. Singh promised further reforms, including cuts in subsidies, possible decontrol of oil prices and introduction of a labor policy, easing strict rules against firing workers that make foreign companies leery of entering the market.

John Ward Anderson of The Washington Post reported earlier:

The Indian government has proposed broad economic measures to entice foreign investment, unshackle the purchasing power of India's huge middle class and boost sales of Indian goods abroad.

The proposals are among the most significant in an economic liberalization process that was begun 20 months ago and that is designed to dismantle India's Soviet-style command economy and replace it with a free-market system favored by the West.

At its core, the program is designed to propel India into the global market by making it easier and cheaper for foreign companies to do business here, lowering the cost of imported raw materials and making Indian-made products more competitive.

The plan would drastically lower India's protectionist tariff rates, some of which are as high as 150 percent, and reduce excise taxes on domestic goods.

"This is a very, very good step forward," said Sam Singh, president of Du Pont Far East Inc. and head of the American Business Council in Delhi.

The 'Big Bull,' Dehorned for Now

By Anil Penna
Agence France-Press

BOMBAY — Harshad Mehta, the immensely wealthy broker at the heart of India's stock-market scandal, says that all he did was to help bankers arbitrage from the modest yields of the money market to the then-spectacular returns of the equities market.

Mr. Mehta, 40, was known as the "Big Bull" who moved the market almost single-handed when he was arrested last June. He spent 110 days in jail, charged with fraud for his alleged part in siphoning off \$1.8 billion from the interbank money market to play the stock market.

The market boom that he helped to fuel turned to bust last April, wiping billions of dollars off share values and triggering a broad revamping of the operations of major

banks, including foreign ones. The market still has not fully recovered.

In an interview, Mr. Mehta said he had done nothing wrong. "All the players in the market were following the same system. We never thought it was criminal." He asserted that in India, "capital creation has always been seen to be a crime."

In last year's affair, Mr. Mehta said, bankers wanting to earn higher returns breached an "artificial wall" between markets. "Returns in the money market, where there was a huge fund flow, were averaging 9 to 15 percent whereas the returns in the capital market were averaging 200 to 300 percent," he said.

Investigators said his complex securities deals violated central bank guidelines.

Whatever the truth of Mr. Mehta's activities, investors are bound to look back on the Bombay Stock

Investor's Asia			
Hong Kong Hang Seng	Singapore Straits Times	Tokyo Nikkei 225	
6500	1700	18000	
6600	1800	19000	
6700	1900	20000	
6800	2000	21000	
6900	2100	22000	
7000	2200	23000	
7100	2300	24000	
7200	2400	25000	
7300	2500	26000	
7400	2600	27000	
7500	2700	28000	
7600	2800	29000	
7700	2900	30000	
7800	3000	31000	
7900	3100	32000	
8000	3200	33000	
8100	3300	34000	
8200	3400	35000	
8300	3500	36000	
8400	3600	37000	
8500	3700	38000	
8600	3800	39000	
8700	3900	40000	
8800	4000	41000	
8900	4100	42000	
9000	4200	43000	
9100	4300	44000	
9200	4400	45000	
9300	4500	46000	
9400	4600	47000	
9500	4700	48000	
9600	4800	49000	
9700	4900	50000	
9800	5000	51000	
9900	5100	52000	
10000	5200	53000	
10100	5300	54000	
10200	5400	55000	
10300	5500	56000	
10400	5600	57000	
10500	5700	58000	
10600	5800	59000	
10700	5900	60000	
10800	6000	61000	
10900	6100	62000	
11000	6200	63000	
11100	6300	64000	
11200	6400	65000	
11300	6500	66000	
11400	6600	67000	
11500	6700	68000	
11600	6800	69000	
11700	6900	70000	
11800	7000	71000	
11900	7100	72000	
12000	7200	73000	
12100	7300	74000	
12200	7400	75000	
12300	7500	76000	
12400	7600	77000	
12500	7700	78000	
12600	7800	79000	
12700	7900	80000	
12800	8000	81000	
12900	8100	82000	
13000	8200	83000	
13100	8300	84000	
13200	8400	85000	
13300	8500	86000	
13400	8600	87000	
13500	8700	88000	
13600	8800	89000	
13700	8900	90000	
13800	9000	91000	
13900	9100	92000	
14000	9200	93000	
14100	9300	94000	
14200	9400	95000	
14300	9500	96000	
14400	9600	97000	
14500	9700	98000	
14600	9800	99000	
14700	9900	100000	
14800	10000	101000	
14900	10100	102000	
15000	10200	103000	
15100	10300	104000	
15200	10400	105000	
15300	10500	106000	
15400	10600	107000	
15500	10700	108000	
15600	10800	109000	
15700	10900	110000	
15800	11000	111000	
15900	11100	112000	
16000	11200	113000	
16100	11300	114000	
16200	11400	115000	
16300	11500	116000	
16400	11600	117000	
16500	11700	118000	
16600	11800	119000	
16700	11900	120000	
16800	12000	121000	
16900	12100	122000	
17000	12200	123000	
17100	12300	124000	
17200	12400	125000	
17300	12500	126000	
17400	12600	127000	
17500	12700	128000	
17600	12800	129000	
17700	12900	130000	
17800	13000	131000	
17900	13100	132000	
18000	13200	133000	
18100	13300	134000	
18200	13400	135000	
18300	13500	136000	
18400	13600	137000	
18500	13700	138000	
18600	13800	139000	
18700	13900	140000	
18800	14000	141000	
18900	14100	142000	
19000	14200	143000	
19100	14300	144000	
19200	14400	145000	
19300	14500	146000	
19400	14600	147000	
19500	14700	148000	
19600	14800	149000	
19700	14900	150000	
19800	15000	151000	
19900	15100	152000	
20000	15200	153000	
20100	15300	154000	
20200	15400	155000	
20300	15500	156000	
20400	15600	157000	
20500	15700	158000	
20600	15800	159000	
20700	15900	160000	
20800	16000	161000	
20900	16100	162000	
21000	16200	163000	
21100	16300	164000	
21200	16400	165000	
21300	16500	166000	
21400	16600	167000	
21500	16700	168000	
21600	16800	169000	
21700	16900	170000	
21800	17000	171000	
21900	17100	172000	
22000	17200	173000	
22100	17300	174000	
22200	17400	175000	
22300	17500	176000	
22400	17600	177000	
22500	17700	178000	
22600	17800	179000	
22700	17900	180000	
22800	18000	181000	
22900	18100	182000	
23000	18200	183000	
23100	18300	184000	
23200	18400	185000	
23300	18500	186000	
23400	18600	187000	
23500	18700	188000	
23600	18800	189000	
23700	18900	190000	
23800	19000	191000	
23900	19100	192000	
24000	19200	193000	
24100	19300	194000	
24200	19400	195000	
24300	19500	196000	
24400	19600	197000	
24500	19700	198000	
24600	19800	199000	
24700	19900	200000	
24800	20000	201000	
24900	20100	202000	
25000	20200	203000	
25100	20300	204000	
25200	20400	205000	
25300	20500	206000	
25400	20600	207000	
25500	20700	208000	
25600	20800	209000	
25700	20900	210000	
25800	21000	211000	
25900	21100	212000	
26000	21200	213000	
26100	21300	214000	
26200	21400	215000	
26300	21500	216000	
26400	21600	217000	
26500	21700	218000	
26600	21800	219000	
26700	21900	220000	
26800	22000	221000	
26900	22100	222000	
27000	22200	223000	
27100	22300	224000	
27200	22400	225000	
27300	22500	226000	
27400	22600	227000	
27500	22700	228000	
27600	22800	229000	
27700	22900	230000	
27800	23000	231000	
27900	23100	232000	
28000	23200	233000	
28100	23300	234000	
28200	23400	235000	
28300	23500	236000	
28400	23600	237000	
28500	23700	238000	
28600	23800	239000	
28700	23900	240000	
28800	24000	241000	

SPORTS BASKETBALL

Hurley Sets Assist Mark As Duke Sinks Maryland

The Associated Press
 Now there's no one for Bobby Hurley to pass.
 Duke's point guard supreme became the NCAA's all-time assist leader Wednesday night with 12 in his final home game. He also scored 19 points in a 95-79 victory over Maryland.

His fifth assist of the game, a pass to Erik Meek with 11:02 left in the first half, gave Hurley 1,039 for and moved him past Chris Corchiani of North Carolina State.

"I don't think anyone thought before the game that it would be Erik," Hurley joked. "He had a high target and I was able to get him the ball. It wasn't anything that we ran. It was Erik. He wanted it, he made the play, and I just delivered."

Hurley has been the director of the Blue Devils since the first game of his freshman season, taking them to three straight national championship games and consecutive NCAA titles. He has an NCAA tournament record of 17-1 and, with Duke ranked sixth, will get a chance to improve that mark in a couple of weeks.

"I'm glad that Bobby broke the assist record here," said the Duke coach, Mike Krzyzewski. "It's something that we all share in."

"It's kind of crazy. He's done something that no one else has done. What a neat thing to be able to coach a kid who has done something that no one else has done."

Duke (23-5, 10-5 ACC) had this one wrapped up by halftime, when it had a 53-29 lead. There was good news for the Blue Devils before the game when Grant Hill appeared in uniform for the first time since he sprained the big toe on his left foot Feb. 13. Although Hill took part in pregame warmups, he did not play for the fifth straight game.

"This has been a long stretch without Grant," Krzyzewski said. "They've performed unbelievably well."

Especially Hurley, who has averaged 14 points and 13.8 assists — including four straight double-doubles — since Hill went down.

"It's something I'll always remember," Hurley said of the record. "With all the players who've played the game, I'll be the only one who'll be able to say they're the top assist leader — at this point anyway."

Maryland (11-14, 2-13), which hasn't beaten Duke since 1988, was led by Kevin McLinton's 22 points.

No. 1 North Carolina 83, No. 14 Wake Forest 65: The Tar Heels (25-3, 13-2 ACC) earned at least a share of the regular-season title for the 14th time as they beat Wake Forest at home for the 11th consecutive time. Eric Montross missed only one of seven shots and had 17 points as North Carolina won its first game as No. 1 team in the country and its eighth in a row.

The Tar Heels, who reached 25 victories under the coaching of Dean Smith for the 16th time, used a 19-1 run in the first half to break it open as they shot 61 percent from the field in the first half.

Randolph Childress' 16 points led Wake Forest (18-7, 9-6), which lost for the third time in four games.

No. 5 Kentucky 98, Mississippi

66: The Wildcats (22-3, 12-3 SEC) kept their hopes alive for a piece of the Southeastern Conference East Division title with the victory at Mississippi, their 79th in 87 games against Ole Miss.

Kentucky shot 57 percent from the field in the first half and forced

COLLEGE BASKETBALL
 14 turnovers on the way to a 49-32 halftime lead. Jamal Mashburn had 22 points and 13 rebounds for the Wildcats, who are one game behind Vanderbilt in the standings, each with a game to play. Joe Harvell and Kevin Watkins had 21 points each for the Rebels (9-16, 4-11).

No. 8 Kansas 94, Nebraska 83: The Jayhawks (23-5, 10-3 Big

Eight) won the regular-season title for the third straight year as seniors Adonis Jordan, Rex Walters and Eric Pauley all reached double figures in their final home game.

Kansas, which won the title for the 41st time, led by 10 points at halftime and came up with a 13-4 run when Nebraska (19-6, 7-6) got within 57-51. Steve Woodberry led Kansas with 26 points, the most scored by a Jayhawk in two years. Eric Pauley had 23 points for the Cornhuskers.

No. 10 Seton Hall 79, Boston College 61: The Pirates (23-6, 13-4 Big East) clinched at least a share of their second straight regular-season title and improved their home record to 14-1. Terry Dehere finished with 21 points and Seton Hall took control early, taking a 37-22 halftime lead in winning its seventh straight and eighth in nine games. Howard Easley had 15 points for the Eagles (15-10, 9-8), who lost for the fifth time in seven games. A loss to Providence in the season finale on Saturday would drop Boston College into seventh place in the conference.

No. 13 Arkansas 88, Louisiana State 75: The Razorbacks (19-6, 10-5 SEC) wrapped up first place in the Southeastern Conference West Division in the last game at Arena Hill Arena, played before an arena-record crowd of 9,660. Next season, Arkansas moves into 18,000-plus seat Bud Walton Arena. An 18-1 run in the first half broke it open as Arkansas took a 51-34 halftime lead. Corliss Williamson led Arkansas with 19 points, while Jamie Brandon topped the Tigers (19-9, 8-7) with 16.

No. 24 Purdue 61, Michigan State 58: The Boilermakers (18-8, 7-8 Big Ten) had to hang on to win on the road. They led 42-30 with 12 minutes to play, but Michigan State (14-10, 6-9) had two chances to tie in the final seconds. Glenn Robinson led Purdue with 18 points, while Shawn Respert topped the Spartans with 16.



Alaa Abdelnaby of the Celtics found J.R. Reid's face useful on this shot, while the Spurs again took it on the chin, 132-91, as they lost for the sixth time in eight games since winning 18 of 19.

SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL

NBA Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	31	25	.554	0 1/2
New Jersey	31	25	.554	0 1/2
Boston	30	26	.538	1 1/2
Orlando	27	29	.482	4 1/2
Atlanta	22	34	.393	9 1/2
Philadelphia	19	37	.339	12 1/2
Washington	16	39	.289	15 1/2

Central Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	40	17	.702	0
Cleveland	37	20	.649	3 1/2
Charlotte	29	28	.509	11 1/2
Indiana	27	29	.482	13 1/2
Atlanta	26	30	.464	14 1/2
Detroit	24	31	.438	16 1/2
Milwaukee	24	34	.414	19 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Pacific Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	35	20	.636	0
Houston	35	21	.621	1 1/2
Utah	34	22	.607	3 1/2
Denver	33	23	.591	5 1/2
Minnesota	33	23	.591	5 1/2
Dallas	4	39	.091	28 1/2

Midwest Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Phoenix	41	13	.759	0
Seattle	38	17	.689	3 1/2
Portland	37	18	.676	4 1/2
L.A. Lakers	29	25	.537	12 1/2
L.A. Clippers	28	27	.509	14 1/2
Golden State	27	27	.500	15 1/2
Sacramento	18	38	.323	24 1/2

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

Atlanta 123-91, Bulls 79-70; 1st Quarter 34-29, 2nd Quarter 32-24, 3rd Quarter 31-23, 4th Quarter 26-14. Orlando 91-84, Pistons 84-82. Phoenix 104-91, Portland 91-84. Houston 91-84, Dallas 84-82. Charlotte 84-77, Cleveland 77-70. Detroit 84-77, Milwaukee 77-70. New York 91-84, New Jersey 84-82. Boston 84-77, Indiana 77-70. Washington 84-77, Philadelphia 77-70. Chicago 91-84, Cleveland 84-82. Utah 84-77, Denver 77-70. Minnesota 84-77, Dallas 77-70. Phoenix 91-84, Seattle 84-82. Portland 84-77, L.A. Lakers 77-70. L.A. Clippers 84-77, Golden State 77-70. Sacramento 84-77, San Antonio 77-70. Houston 84-77, Utah 77-70. Phoenix 84-77, Portland 77-70. Houston 84-77, Dallas 77-70. Charlotte 84-77, Cleveland 77-70. Detroit 84-77, Milwaukee 77-70. New York 91-84, New Jersey 84-82. Boston 84-77, Indiana 77-70. Washington 84-77, Philadelphia 77-70. Chicago 91-84, Cleveland 84-82. Utah 84-77, Denver 77-70. Minnesota 84-77, Dallas 77-70. Phoenix 91-84, Seattle 84-82. Portland 84-77, L.A. 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SPORTS ATHLETICS

Atlético Gets Tie In Athens

Antwerp Foiled By Bucharest

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

With a first half goal by forward Gabriel Moya, Atlético Madrid got a 1-1 draw Thursday against Olympiakos Piraeus in a first-leg quarter-final match of the European Cup Winners' Cup tournament.

That made Atlético's effort to advance to the semifinals easier, with the second-leg match to be played in Madrid on March 18.

Before a crowd of 53,000 in Athens Olympic stadium, Atlético applied its usual forcing tactics while Olympiakos counterattacked.

In the fourth minute, Mamel Alfaro missed on a good scoring opportunity with a shot that hit the crossbar.

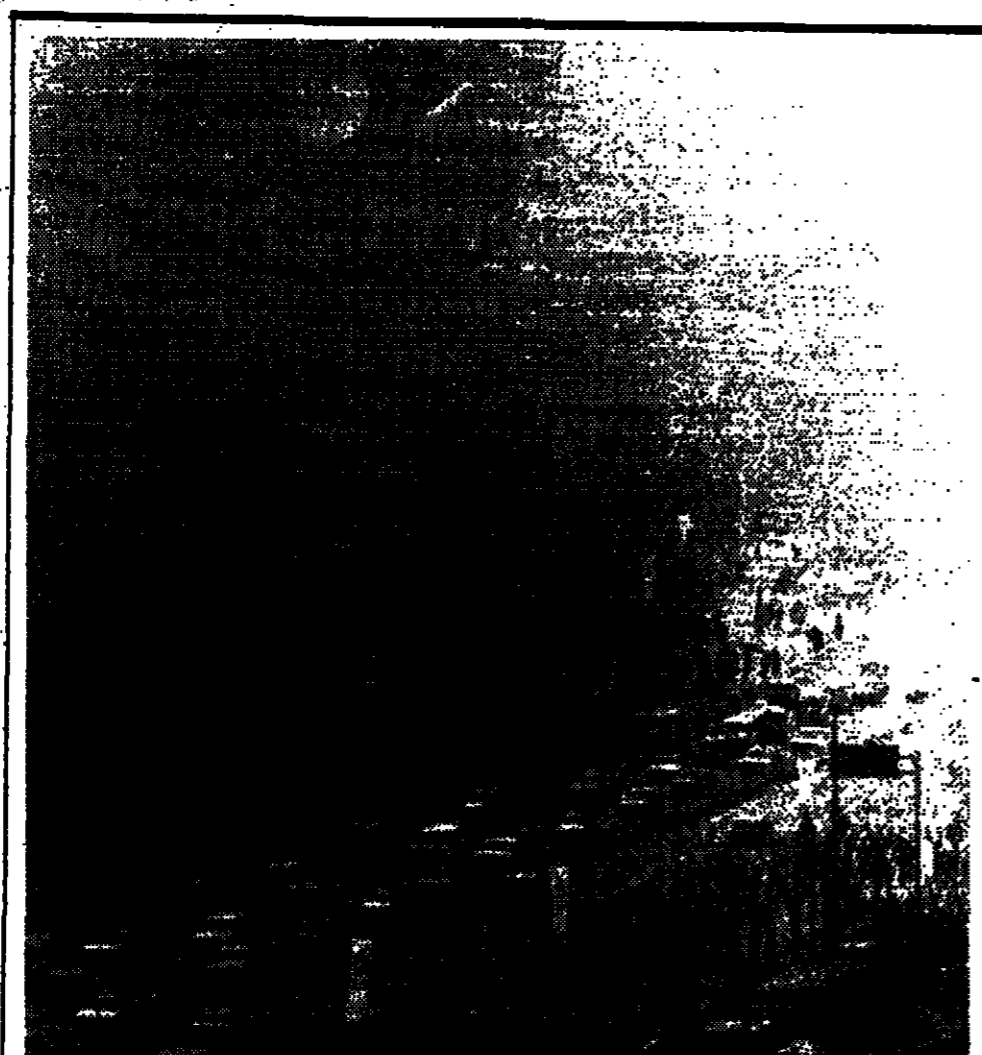
But six minutes later, Moya, after a perfect pass from German midfielder Bernd Schuster, easily beat goalkeeper Giorgos Mirtsos from close range.

Mexican forward Luis Garcia also hit the crossbar in the 21st minute, and Atlético lost yet another major opportunity in the 45th minute when Mirtsos stopped a penalty kick taken by Alfaro.

Olympiakos came close to scoring in the 12th minute, but goalkeeper Abel Resino Gómez stopped a shot by Portuguese striker Daniel Batista.

Olympiakos regrouped at half time and tied the score in the 64th minute with a goal by forward Giorgos Vaitas after a center from Sotiris Mavrommatis.

But that was the only ball to get past Gómez, who blocked a series of shots in helping his team preserve the draw.



GAMES FACE — Beijing, two days before an IOC inspection group's visit that will help decide whether the city wins the bid for the 2000 Summer Games, was blanketed in smog Thursday.

IAAF Says Drug Test on Johnson Showed High Testosterone Level

The Associated Press

LONDON — Ben Johnson showed unusually high levels of testosterone in one of three recent drug tests, officials of the International Amateur Athletic Federation said Thursday.

"Of the three controls, there was one whose results appear suspicious," said Arne Ljungqvist, chairman of the IAAF's drug commission. "We will be examining those results Friday."

The five-member panel will meet in Paris to discuss the test carried out on Johnson at a Jan. 17 meet in Montreal.

Johnson faces a lifetime ban because he was suspended once before, in 1988 at the Olympics in Seoul. He was also stripped of the gold medal he won and the world record he set in the 100 meters before testing positive for steroids.

According to IAAF sources, the first and third tests taken in Canada were negative, while the second showed high levels of testosterone, a steroid-related substance that enables athletes to train more strenuously and recover more quickly.

Testosterone is listed under the category of anabolic steroids in the International Olympic Committee's anti-drug charter. It is a male hormone that normally exists in the body at a ratio of 1-to-1 to another hormone, epitestosterone. A ratio

surpassing 6-to-1 is considered a positive test.

The IAAF first declined to confirm or deny that Johnson was under investigation, then announced that its drug panel would meet in Paris to discuss Johnson's test.

"Originally the commission planned to meet at the end of the indoor season, but now that a decision quickly so that the world knows what's going on," said the IAAF's general secretary, Istvan Gyulai.

In addition to Ljungqvist, the members of the drug commission are Dr. Gabriel Dolle of France, Professor Manfred Donike of Germany, Professor Antonio Dal Monte of Italy, and the American lawyer Frank Greenberg.

Johnson is not expected to attend the meeting, nor are any of his representatives. The IAAF said that is customary for commission meetings.

If the panel confirms a positive finding, Johnson will be suspended immediately, pending an appeal hearing. Any hearing would be conducted by Athletics Canada, the nation's governing body for track and field. Final recourse would be an appeal to an IAAF arbitration panel.

Earlier, Filip Bondy of The New York Times reported: Canadian officials are working behind the scenes to persuade Johnson to retire before the world comes to Toronto next week for the indoor track and field championships.

Athletics Canada said it had not received a positive test regarding Johnson from either the Canadian Center for Drug-Free Sports, or from the IAAF. But according to two international track and field officials close to the situation, Athletics Canada has been urging Johnson to retire from the sport for the past two weeks, since rumors began circulating about a possible positive test.

The world indoors championships will take place in Toronto next week, and officials are deeply concerned that Johnson's problems will command more attention than the meet.

The Toronto Star reported Wednesday that Johnson had shown a high level of testosterone. He was tested three times over a six-day period in January after meets in Hamilton, Ontario, Montreal and Toronto.

Johnson immediately denied the use of testosterone or any drug, issuing a statement Wednesday through the Toronto law firm of McMillan Binch. "Mr. Johnson denies taking any prohibited substance or engaging in any improper practice since his return to competition," the statement read.

Johnson's manager in Toronto, Kameel Azam, said his client had no intention of yielding to any pressure to quit the sport.

"This is a manager's nightmare," Azam said. "We're just disillusioned about the whole thing. Nobody has a positive on him. He doesn't take this thing lightly, believe me. We're just hoping and praying this thing goes away."

Johnson, who has been coached recently by Percy Duncan of Toronto, appears ready to battle any conviction or penalty. He stands a fair chance, because testosterone levels are slippery gauges. Some American stars have escaped punishment despite ratios close to 8-to-1.

Duncan, 74, said he was "in space right now" and added, "Let's wait to hear what the IAAF has to say."

Reports about Johnson's training routine began in earnest in Barcelona, at the 1992 Summer Olympics, when several newspapers reported that the sprinter was back with his former coach, Charlie Francis. Johnson failed even to qualify for the finals of his specialty, the 100 meters, but made headlines nonetheless for being banished after a tussle with a security guard.

Francis denied Wednesday that he had resumed any relationship with Johnson. "I wasn't with him in Barcelona, and my passport proves it," Francis said.

Deal-Making Snails Ahead In Baseball

The Associated Press

Contracts are still in the news, but most of the members being discussed at this time of year are thousands, not millions.

The Atlanta Braves have threatened to renew Deion Sanders' contract Thursday. The Braves negotiated with Sanders' agent, Eugene Parker, until late Wednesday night but could not agree on either a one-year or multiyear deal.

The Texas Rangers renewed 1992 home run champion Juan Gonzalez's contract after the two sides could not agree on a deal.

"The difference in proposals between the two sides on a one-year contract was so great that we were unable to reach an agreement," said the Rangers' general manager, Tom Grieve.

Rodriguez made \$525,000 last season when he hit 43 home runs.

"A renewal is not something that we wanted to do, but under the circumstances, that was the only way to resolve the situation," Grieve said.

Gonzalez, who hit .260 with 109 RBIs in 155 games last year, will be eligible to file for salary arbitration after the 1993 season.

Outfielder Moises Alou of the Montreal Expos also had his contract renewed. Alou, runner-up in National League rookie of the year voting last year, refused to sign for the club's last offer of \$210,000, so he was renewed at what he and his agent predicted would be a smaller figure, possibly \$200,000.

Alou followed through on a threat to boycott the start of spring training Feb. 27, holding out for two hours. He then joined workouts after talking with his father and the Expos' manager, Felipe Alou.

Also having their contracts renewed by the Expos were pitcher



Lou Piniella, the new manager of the Seattle Mariners, turned poser for photographers outside the training camp in Peoria, Arizona.

Brian Barnes, first baseman Greg Colbrunn and catcher Raul Santana.

The American League rookie of the year, Pat Listach, agreed to terms with the Milwaukee Brewers on a one-year deal worth a reported \$350,000.

Carlton Fisk, the 45-year-old catcher, signed a contract in the face of an ultimatum by the Chicago

Vote Backs Change In Playoffs, Leagues

The Associated Press

PHOENIX — The owners of major league baseball's team gave preliminary approval Thursday to expanded playoffs, interleague play and splitting each league into three divisions as early as 1995.

No timetable was set for the dramatic changes, but most owners said two years would be needed. They also cautioned that the changes would need approval from the Major League Baseball Players Association.

In two votes, owners directed John Harrington of the Boston Red Sox, chairman of the schedule-format committee, to develop 1994 test schedules that will have three divisions in each league, and versions with and without interleague play.

Bud Selig of the Milwaukee Brewers, who is chairman of the ruling executive council, said both votes were overwhelming but not unanimous, and described them as preliminary approval while Harrington called it "a very important step."

Owners said 10 to 20 interleague games per season would be included in some draft schedules, and that the interleague games would involve natural rivalries. They said the moves were sparked by a belief that baseball needed to change.

"We're in a very competitive business with a lot of forms of entertainment," Selig said. "There's no industry that can afford to sit back."

The only interleague play since the American League formed in 1900 has been during spring training, the All-Star game and the World Series. The leagues have been divided into two divisions since 1969.

Whether to change the length of the regular-season schedule for 1993 was addressed in Thursday's votes. That is being left up to Harrington's group to propose.

Earlier, Murray Chass of The New York Times reported: As the club owners gathered six months to the day after they asked Fay Vincent to resign as commissioner, there was a growing movement among them to delay the selection of a new commissioner until they have negotiated new labor and television contracts.

A timetable for the selection of a commissioner has not been a topic of discussion at any of the seven owners meetings in the last six months. The debate has been conducted on an informal, low-key basis because no owner wants to be on record as pushing for the status quo, the absence of a commissioner.

But the owners also risk further arousing the ire of members of Congress who have been threatening to take action against baseball's antitrust exemption. It was the owners' ouster of Vincent in September that caught the attention of some members of Congress and prompted a hearing of a Senate committee into the exemption in December.

Thursday Senator Howard D. Mankin, the Democrat from Ohio who is chairman of the Senate judiciary subcommittee on antitrust, monopolies and business rights, and Senator Connie Mack, the Republican from Florida who is the grandson of baseball's legendary manager Connie Mack, introduced legislation aimed at ending baseball's antitrust exemption.

SIDELINES

Narozhilenko Breaks Record Again

SEVILLE (AP) — Lyudmila Narozhilenko of Russia twice broke her world indoor record in the 60-meter hurdles Thursday, finishing in 7.63 seconds to shave .05 seconds off the mark of 7.68 seconds she had set in a semifinal heat less than an hour earlier.

The record in the 28-year-old runner's third in the event this week. She ran a then-record 7.68 on Tuesday in San Sebastian, Spain.

Jockey Club Steps Up Fight Against Drugging of Horses

Reuters

LONDON — The Jockey Club said Thursday it was stepping up its battle against racehorse dopers in Britain by offering a reward of as much as £5,000 (\$7,250) for information leading to conviction.

A confidential hot line is to be put into operation on a 24-hour basis next Tuesday.

It is one of a number of initiatives being introduced in the wake of the "nabbing" of Flash Of Straw last August and Her Honour last month, officials said.

In the future, trainers and jockeys that suspect that a horse has been tampered with can withdraw it from a race at any time and request a drug test.

"It will be treated as a private test so there will be no charge, and then, if it is positive, the trainer will be absolved of his normal responsibility," said the Jockey Club's head of security, Roger Butham.

He said it would place an uncertainty in the minds of the dopers because they would never know if the horse would actually run.

Butham, who commands a team of 45 full-time and 90 part-time investigators, defended the decision not to publicize the dopings and said police had leads in both cases.

"It is not sufficient to catch the stable lad with a smoking syringe," he said. "It is very difficult to prove. We have to prove the full conspiracy and who the benefactor was."

For the Record

The Honda Open golf tournament in Hamburg has been moved from October to June 10-13 to fill the gap caused by the previous cancellation of the Monte Carlo Open, the PGA European Tour said.

Plans for Atlanta's Olympic Stadium were delayed again when the Atlanta county board of commissioners voted against a deal letting the Atlanta Braves move into the facility after the 1996 Games.

The Kenya Amateur Athletic Association appointed a five-man panel to meet March 18 to consider the refusal of John Ngunji, the five-time world cross country champion, to take a drug test two weeks ago.

Goran Ivankovic, the sixth seed, No. 7 Andre Agassi and No. 8 Michael Stich were eliminated as upsets continued at the Champions Cup in Indian Wells, California. Alberto Mancini of Argentina defeated Ivankovic, Marc Rosset beat Agassi and Fabrice Santoro of France took out Stich.

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OBSERVER

A Fork in the Logic

By Russell Baker
WASHINGTON — "White man speak with forked tongue," observed several generations of Hollywood Indians...

Chan was afflicted with an impetuous son who habitually jumped to the wrong conclusion about whatever his father happened to be investigating...

thought out according to the precept of Chan. This emboldens me to suggest that the president's wife needs to get the fork out of her thinking about health matters.

She is, of course, in charge of creating a sensible health-care program. It is a costly proposition, and speculation encouraged by the Clinton people is that new taxes on tobacco and alcohol will be required to finance the program.

Why, then, has the president's wife banned smoking in the White House? The publicity flowing from her example is bound to be yet another blow to cigarette sales.

It is my belief that nothing is so politically incorrect as childproofing the uncorrupted mind cannot extract a nugget of enduring wisdom from it.

Charlie Chan might suspect there is more afoot here than meets the eye. It is comforting to think that clean-living, nonsmoking, nonboozing folks can get a nice new health-care program free by riding on the backs of smoky and vicious sinners.

It's doubtful that the Clinton people really believe this. Surely they are toying with us on the matter of health-care costs, hoping to hold down the bad tax news until their economic program can be enacted.

Playing on Brains And Funny Bones

By Bruce Weber
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — For anyone who saw "Largely New York," Bill Irwin's 1989 Broadway show about a clown encountering the city's mundane technology, watching Irwin climb aboard the treadmill at his gym in Chelsea yields a trickle of anticipation.

This is just an everyday workout — "Not every day," Irwin says, gully — but admit that he's long had it in mind to do a routine set in a gym, and so he begins experimenting. What would happen, he wonders aloud, if he took the warning on the machine to heart: if you feel faint or short of breath stop exercising immediately.

As the conveyor belt continues to convey, Irwin feigns a gasp and ceases to keep up with it. In an acrobatic instant, his feet are out from under him. His head and upper body pitched backward. His hands grab the handrails, but somehow his legs have become tangled up in the frame of the machine, requiring an elastic untwisting of himself.

It is the physical dexterity combined with a genuinely cerebral bent that gives Irwin's talents their special colors. Impulsive and curious on the one hand, perpetually flummoxed and chastened on the other, Irwin's onstage personality borrows from both Charlie Chaplin and Emmet Kelly.

opened at the Richard Rodgers Theatre last week to ebullient reviews.

An elaboration of a two-night stand the men performed at the Serious Fun festival at Lincoln Center last summer, "Fool Moon" features the music of the Red Jay Ramblers, a country-folk band. In the show, Shiner and Irwin each perform solo turns as well as bounce off each other, literally and artistically. The show also involves much audience participation, and its creators say it has something of a dramatic line, though how to describe it remains a little mysterious.

"It deals with the place of the clown in the world," Irwin says. "It has to do with making jokes about what we're afraid of." He thinks of it as a family show, particularly appropriate for children. But as in many clown shows, it has a lot of antic danger and last-minute rescue, a lot of bopping and bashing.

"It's all about violence," Irwin says, making a clown face and laughing a charged laugh. "Why it's funny, I honestly don't know."

"I've taught a lot of clown stunts," he says, "and a lot of the students, the college students particularly, think: 'I would never do that sort of clowning. The violence. It's abhorrent to me.' And then, in class, somebody will just get it right, really swing their arm and get it right, and everybody goes, 'Ooooooh!'"

The process of making physical comedy, he says, is different from verbal comedy, more primal. But the guidelines are more elusive. What's funny ends up being a matter of what "feels right."



Even the treadmill at his gym becomes a potential comic prop for Bill Irwin.

Oklahoma, where his father worked as an aeronautical engineer. He spent his last year in high school as an exchange student in Belfast. He has a degree in theater arts from Oberlin College in Ohio, and in 1974 he graduated from Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey's Clown College in Venice, Florida.

"Largely New York" owes its existence to the MacArthur. Even with television and movies a regular part of his professional life, his talents have been most fully showcased on the stage, both in his own productions and in two productions of Samuel Beckett plays. He admits that as an actor he can sometimes trip on clumsy clown's feet. "You use different muscles," he says. "Some times I'll go in for an audition and I'll approach the part as an actor, looking for an interesting tack to take on the text. And the casting person will say to the director: 'This is Bill Irwin. I don't know whether you know him, but he does the funniest falling-down stuff, ha ha ha ha.' And suddenly I'm thinking I have something to prove. So I'm doing the scene trying to throw some stunts in there to prove how right the guy was, and then I might as well give up because I'm there neither as a clown nor as an actor. I'm stuck somewhere in the middle."

PEOPLE

Radio Days With Dad: Reagan's Son on the Air

Reagans redux: Michael Reagan, the adopted son of former President Ronald Reagan and the actress Jane Wyman, has rediscovered his dad and taken to national radio with a syndicated show. The angry young man — who once publicly complained that his father never met his youngest child until she was nearly 2 — is taking a more sentimental approach. "I spend more time with him now than ever," he told The Washington Post. "I took the initiative of hugging him and telling him I love him." Meanwhile, Ron Reagan is taking another crack at television, this time on the Fox network. The son of the former president and Nancy Reagan will be a correspondent for a prime-time news magazine. He used to have a late-night talk show, and was a correspondent for ABC's "Good Morning America."

The Grammy-winning reggae performer Shabba Ranks was pulled from "The Tonight Show" guest lineup because of anti-gay remarks he had made earlier. He later apologized for the remarks, made in December on the British TV talk show "The Word." Ranks had said "Boom Bye Bye," a song by Baha Banton advocating violence against gays, was "most definitely right." His publicist said he had agreed to produce and distribute a public service announcement opposing violence against homosexuals.

The only known copy of an Oliver Hardy film lost for decades has been presented to the Netherlands Film Museum by a private collector. The film, "A Bankrupt Homecoming," was given to the museum after a previously lost Stan Laurel film attracted huge attention at the Olie Centennial in Amsterdam last year. The new acquisition stars Hardy, without his sidekick, Laurel.

A heavy cold has forced Queen Elizabeth to cancel engagements. Her second illness in short two months... In Nepal, Princess Diana spent an hour visiting with patients in a leprosy hospital.

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WEATHER

Table with weather forecasts for Europe, North America, Middle East, and Oceania. Columns include location, today's high/low, and tomorrow's high/low.

CROSSWORD

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes a solution for the puzzle of March 4.

BOOKS

SWING, SWING, SWING: The Life and Times of Benny Goodman. By Ross Firestone. 522 pages. \$29.95. Norton. Reviewed by Jonathan Yardley.

BRIDGE

By Alan Truscott
IN the diagram deal, played recently in London in a high-stakes game, North might have passed three no-trumps, since his partner was obviously well protected in spades, but he corrected to four hearts. South corrected back to four no-trump, expressing a wish to play that contract.

Bridge puzzle diagram showing a deal with North and South hands. Includes a solution for the deal.

Bridge puzzle diagram showing a deal with North and South hands. Includes a solution for the deal.

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